

So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing, spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square ... sing.

**Song**            She's got the whole world in her hands  
                      She's got the whole world in her hands  
                      She's got the whole world in her hands  
                      She's got the whole world in her hands

**Closing Blessing:**

One: May God's grace enfold us, Creation's beauty inspire  
      us, and Earth's blessings heal and transform us.

**All: Amen!**

# EARTH HOUR VIGIL

Saturday March 28, 2020            8:30-9:30pm

*This Vigil was created for use at home by Claremont United Church. Prayers were adapted from: niagaraanglican.ca*

**A central candle is lit** and placed in a safe location.

**Preparation: We 'power down'.**

*All the lights in the house and any other power-sourced objects are turned off for the hour-long vigil.*

**A reading from Genesis 1:1-3**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.  
God called the light "day," and the darkness God called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

**Introduction**

**One:** Light is all around us. We often do not even realize it until it is gone and we are in darkness.

Tonight we will celebrate amidst darkness, guided by gentle candle light.

**All: Light that will encourage us to reflect on who God is calling us to be for our world.**

*- A time of silence is kept -*

**Opening Prayer:**

One: Beneath our toes  
Beneath our shoes  
Beneath floors  
Beneath basement and cement and foundation

**All We are still standing on holy ground**

One Amidst cheerful chatter  
TV drones and telephones  
Planes and trains Sirens, horns, and the squeal of tires

**All We listen for the call of the Earth**

One Amidst trash, contamination, pits, pollution  
Waste, seen and unseen  
We are tired people, grasping for energy

**All We are still standing on holy ground**

One Bike riders and gardeners whisper alternatives  
as creation groans beneath the weight of  
waste and excess  
Beneath even that sits holy ground  
Firmly rooting all in the moving, shaping,  
Cleansing powers of creation,

**All We listen for the call of the Earth**

**“Lockdown”** A Poem by: Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise,  
you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in  
a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.