

SACRED EARTH, SACRED WORK
KNOX UNITED, BRANDON, MANITOBA

THE SEASON OF CREATION 2021
CALLED BY EARTH & SKY: PRAYING WITH THE ELEMENTS

I. Sister Earth – 12 September

*All praise be Yours, my God, through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces
Various fruits and coloured flowers and herbs.*
– St. Francis of Assisi

**CONNECTING FROM EAST AND WEST,
FROM NORTH AND SOUTH**

GATHERING MUSIC

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Introduction to our theme:
Sister Earth, Holy Ground

Response "Praise" by Michael Stillwater*

**Praise the Mother, Praise the Father too
Praise the Lord of all and the Source of you
Praise the rivers ever flowing through
To the ocean of who we are
Hey mama heya, umbay, umbay
Hey mama heya, umbay, umbay
Hey mama heya, umbay, umbay
Hey mama heya, O**

Prayer

("Praise" in Treasury of Chant by Michael Stillwater, Inner Harmony Music, used by permission)

SONG OF CREATION

"Each Blade of Grass"

MV 37

**Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moonbright sky,
make full the circle of God.**

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all for the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

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SHARING OUR SACRED STORIES

A WORD FOR THE AGES I Exodus 3:1-7

FOR REFLECTION

- Where do you experience yourself to be on holy ground?
- Where do you need more of a sense of grounding?
- How might you honour the holiness of the Earth more deeply?

A WORD FOR THE AGES II John 15:1-5

This is a word of God.
Thanks be to God!
All creation is a word of God.
All creation speaks volumes of God.

REFLECTION

"Holy Ground"

Craig S. Miller

SONG OF FAITH

"Soil of God, You and I"

MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

**Soil of God, you and I now ready to be
part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.**

**Soil of God, you and I now called to rebirth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is...Holy ground.**

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BREAKING OPEN OUR HEARTS THROUGH PRAYER

LETTING GO AND HOLDING WITH LOVE

Invitation to Prayer

Response "And When You Call for Me" MV 96

**And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.**

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Prayer of Jesus "A Paraphrase" VU 916

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

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COMMITTING TO THE COMMON GOOD

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE, COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Praying with Earth this week

Begin your time of prayer by grounding your body and experiencing your rootedness in the Earth. Notice the way the ground supports your entire body. Offer a prayer for the many gifts of nourishment the Earth provides. Take a moment to ask what you need to feel more grounded in your life, and honour the response that stirs within you. In batha yoga there is a posture called mountain pose. In it you stand with your feet firmly planted on the ground, hip-width apart and your arms by your sides, feeling the strength of being in this place.*

SONG FOR THE JOURNEY “May God’s Sheltering Wings”

MV 214

**May God’s sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God’s nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.**

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POSTLUDE

*Series based on material from the book, *Water, Wind, Earth, & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements* by Christine Valters Painter