



Peace with Planet Earth

A prayer for September 21, 2014

International Day of Peace

Maryann Calabrese, CND, Arlene Flaherty, OP

Call to Consciousness:

Leader: Each year the *International Day of Peace* is observed around the world on the 21st day of *September*. The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Given the extent of global violence we have all witnessed over the course of the past few months, we know the need to pray for peace and the urgency for peace to take root among peoples and nations.

This year, the International Day of Peace coincides with the *People's Climate March*. On September 21, men, women, and children from all over the planet will come to NYC to call for *Peace with the Planet*. Global Warming caused by our species' excessive use of carbon, ravenous appetite for irreplaceable natural resources, and disregard for Earth's integrity is threatening the life of our planet and the community of life she sustains. Earth's global human family is gathering to raise prayers, awareness, and concerns for Earth so that Earth's voice will resound at the UN Climate Summit of world leaders on September 23rd. And so in solidarity with all, we pray for Peace with the Planet on this International Day of Peace. We pray that global leaders will respond to Earth and her community of life by building a global consensus for an international climate treaty in order to restore peace to Earth.

As we begin our prayer, mindful that September 21st is a day when the world is gathering to pray and act for peace, let us take a moment to be aware of our solidarity with the global human family and all members of the community of Earth who yearn for peace.

Let us allow these words of Chief Seattle of the Suquamish tribe, hallow our hearts. "Teach your children that the Earth is our mother; whatever befalls the Earth befall the children of the Earth."

Moment of Silence

Video: Global warming 101 (about 5 minutes)

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/101-videos/global-warming-101>

Reflection and conversation:

- What did you hear? How do you feel? What will you do?

(Soft instrumental music can be played as the prayer procession begins)

Prayer and Procession with elements of Earth Beatitudes for Earth by Richard S. Gilbert

Highlighted elements will be carried up in procession

L: Blessed are the heavens, for they declare the power of creation.

All: Blessed is the **earth**, our beloved home,
for she is a planet of plenitude.

L: **Blessed are the waters, for they gave rise to living things.**

All: Blessed is the land,
for it is the source of life abundant.

L: Blessed is the **air** we breathe, for it fires us to life and love.

All: Blessed are the beasts of the field,
for they are glorious to behold.
Blessed are the birds of the air,
for they carve a graceful arc in the sky.

L: Blessed are the fields of **grain**, the orchards of **fruit**,

All: for they give sustenance, asking nothing in return.

L: Blessed are **those who dwell on Earth**, for they cherish the privilege of living upon it.

All: Blessed are they that mourn,
for they will be comforted.

L: Blessed are they that rejoice, for their joy is a blessing to all life.

All: Blessed are **they who protect the Earth and all her creatures**,
for their reward shall be harmony with the web of existence.
Rejoice, and be glad,
for the earth and her people are one.



(Once the elements have been placed in the prayer space, the leader continues)

Prayers of Intercession: (Resource with modifications taken from the Sanctuary Center: Where World and Worship Meet)

- L:** For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,
All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world**
- L:** For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons, and failed crops,
All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.**
- L:** For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss, and salination of vital water supplies
All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world**
- L:** For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,
All: **Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world**
- L:** For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee
All: **Creator God, in your mercy renew this damaged world**
- L:** **For the sake of us all,**
All: **Creator God, in your mercy recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world,**
- L:** We ask you, Creator God to inspire our world leaders to take concrete action on behalf of the sustainability of Planet Earth and her community of life
All: **Give them the courage and resolve to secure a future for our planet and all species that call Earth "HOME."**
- L:** **Let us offer one another a sign of peace**

Closing: Some options below

"Mystery" from Missa Gaia by Paul Winter: a PowerPoint reflection.

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Sing: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Sing or Recite the Prayer of St Francis

*Creator God,
Recreate our hearts
that we might
partner with you
to renew this
damaged world.*