

EARS to EARTH EYES to GOD

Native Assembly

July 28-31, 2014 • Winnipeg, MB, Treaty 1

Job 12:7-10

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?

In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

(New Revised Standard Version)

7_x б·9^л ·Δ_α·Δ <Δ>Δ·Δ_α^б PCCPP_αΔLd^б; б·9^л ΔP
Λ_αΔ_α^б бΛΓ_γ·Δ^б Pб·ΔCLd^б;
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9_x <Δ>∇_α^б ∇бP9C_γ·б ·Δ^α P_γLσ_γ бP_α 9d^α бΔJ^γ9^γ?
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(Ojibway, free-hand paraphrase)

Worship Booklet

WORDS OF WELCOME

Elders and young ones,
friends and family,
welcome to Native Assembly and this sacred circle.
We are so glad that you are all here with us.

We gather here in the lands of the Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, and Metis nations.

We gather in Treaty lands, covenanted between Indigenous and settler peoples in 1871.

We gather in our common humanity as diverse communities, with unique stories and gifts, to learn from and celebrate each other.

We gather as spiritual peoples – with our Ears to Earth and Eyes to God.

We gather together, before one Creator who loves and respects us all.

We are all welcome in this place.

PRAYERS

Creation sings

The land around us is full of beauty:

We praise your name, O God!

For the gift of life on earth:

We praise your name, O Manitou!

Open our eyes to see your artistry,
Your image in all that you have made.

Where our praise is silent:

Let all creation sing with joy!

O God, our Creator,

We come together

To celebrate your creation;

Accept this offering of praise

As we worship you,

The Maker and Sustainer of all.

Amen.

For Harmony

We come with thanksgiving

for our very breath, the warmth of sun, and the sustaining waters

for life all around us: the plants, soft grasses, and sheltering trees

for the ones that crawl, those that swim, and those that fly

for the four-legged and the two-legged

All our relations!

We celebrate the diversity in creation as reflected in the four winds from the four directions. We especially honour the many peoples with their many gifts for understanding our shared life on the earth.

We strive to live out the seven sacred teachings:

Respect

Love

Honesty

Courage

Humility

Wisdom

Truth.

These teachings enable us to live in harmony with ourselves, with our neighbours, and all the created earth.

All our relations!

-Stan McKay (Cree)

All Creation Speaks

The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air,

The fragrance of the grass, speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky,

The rhythm of the sea, speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning,

The dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me.

The strength of fire, the taste of salmon, the trail of the sun,

And the life that never goes away, they speak to me.

And my heart soars.

-Chief Dan George

Confession

Creator God, breathing your own life into our being.

You gave us the gift of life.

You placed us on this earth with the minerals and waters,

Flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty.

Today you call us:

“Where are you: what have you done?”

(Silence)

We hide in shame, for we are naked;

We violate the earth and plunder it;

We refuse to share the earth’s resources;

We seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Forgive us, Creator, and reconcile us to your creation.

Teach us, God of Love,

That the earth and all its fullness is yours,

The world and all who dwell in it.

Call us yet again to safeguard the gift of life.

Forgive us, Creator, and reconcile us to your creation.

Amen – All my relations.

-Adapted from 1991 Asia Christian Conference

Give us Ears to Hear

Teach us to listen!

We can hear it in water, in wood, and even in stone.

We are earth of this earth, and we are bone of its bone.

This is a prayer we sing, for we have forgotten...

And so the earth is perishing.

-Barbara Deming

When Despair Grows

When despair for the world grows in me

And I wake in the night at the least sound

In fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and
the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with
forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

-Wendell Berry

Prayer of Sharing

Great Spirit (Kisay—Manitou)

With humility and thanksgiving we come acknowledging
that we live on land that the elders called the Creator's resting place
(Manitoba—Manitou-apa).

We seek to understand the fullness of life (Pimadizewin).

Each life is a gift for the community to share (mamawi).

Together we share stories, feast and dream of the mystery
of all our relations (ka-ki-nu-in-wa-ma-gun-uk),
all plant life, the ones that crawl, swim, and fly,
the four legged and the two legged.

The water is sacred (ka-na-tun-ni-pi).

The earth is sacred (ka-na-tun-us-ki).

We acknowledge that we are part of the earth,
Our Mother (ni-ka-we-nan).

We ask only for what we need and with the guidance of the spirit helper,
of what we have, we will share.

-Stan McKay (Cree)

God help us

Grandfather, look at our brokenness.

Now we must put the sanctity of Life

As the most sacred principle of power

And renounce the awesome might of materialism.

We know that in all creation

Only the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way.

We know that we are the ones who are divided.

And we are the ones who must come back together

To walk in the Sacred Way.

Grandfather, Sacred One,

Teach us love, compassion, and honor

That we may heal the earth and heal each other.

-Art Solomon (Anishinaabe)

Heal our Wounds

God our creator who is loving and always with us,
we pray for strength and humility to walk in balance within your created order,
we pray for understanding of one another
so that the wounds of this broken world may be made whole.

We pray that promises made and broken can be honored
and mended.

We pray these words so that we may have healing within our communities;
and from that gift of healing, the spirit to serve you in harmony and peace.
And in the end, may we taste the sweetness of heaven come down to earth,
So that we may all find everlasting rest in your embrace.

We ask these things in your name.

Amen.

-Robert Two Bulls (Oglala Lakota Oyate)

We are Relatives

Great Spirit, Grandfather,
All over the world the faces of living ones are alike.
With tenderness they have come up out of the ground.
Look upon your children that they may face the winds and walk the good
road to the Day of Quiet.

Grandfather, Great Spirit
Fill us with Light.
Give us strength to understand and the eyes to see.
Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.

-Dakota prayer

Blessing

May the Spirit of life move in us
From selfishness to sharing
From apathy to action
From observing to doing
From despair to hope

May the Spirit of life bless us
With both the pain and joy of change
The change the world needs,
The change for which we pray,
The change we are becoming
Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

-Adapted from Sam Hamilton-Poore's Earth Gospel (Upper Room, 2009).

SONGS

All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show.

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

-Words: Francis of Assisi (Public Domain)

At the Dawn of Your Creation

Tune "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke, "Let there be light!"
You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.
You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be..."

By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.
Soon there burst forth vegetation — plants with fruit, majestic trees.
Rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea —
God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be..."

When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,
You commanded, "Be good stewards — care for earth; it's in your hands."
Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.
We forget it's your creation — you, who once said "Let there be..."

At this joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew:
May we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you.
Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see,
So we daily hear your calling — you, who once said, "Let there be..."

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Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true child;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

-Words: 8th century Irish (Public Domain)

Beautiful Great One

Beautiful, Great One
We lift our hands to you, we lift our hands to you
Beautiful, Great One
We lift our hands to you, we lift our hands to you

Men Ah Shin, Key Shay Manitou
Nin deesh bin e gate ah wah, Nin deesh bin e gate ah wah

Men Ah Shin, Key Shay Manitou
Nin deesh bin e gate ah wah, Nin deesh bin e gate ah wah

Key ga na diz, Key ga na diz,
Key Shay Manitou, Key ga na diz,
You are holy, You are holy,
Beautiful, Great One, You are holy

Hey-ya, hey-ya, hey-ya, hey-yo (repeat)

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Creation is a Song (Assembly Hymn)

*Creation is a song, a song that we can see
A sacred gift from God, let's join the harmony.*

The rolling of the oceans, the bubbling of a spring
Night sky filled with jewels, a flock of beating wings.

Dancing prairie meadow, fruit swaying on the vine
Boiling storm clouds rising, lightning 'cross the sky

Bridge

Hey-ya, hey-ya, hey-ya,
hey-ya, hey-ya, ya-ah (X4)

Majestic sleeping mountain, forest green and deep
Every living creature in our care to keep

Every glowing sunset, every outstretched leaf
Is witness to the glory of the One who sits as Chief.

Inspired by the writings of Chief Lawrence Hart – a Cheyenne Mennonite Peace Chief – and songs given to Maude Fighting Bear, the hymn calls us to marvel at the sacred gift that is all around us. It was translated by Leonora Hart Holliman and is used with the permission of the composers, Jude and Doug Krebbiel.

Farther Along

Tempted and tried, we're oft made to wonder
Why it should be thus all the day long;
While there are others living about us,
Never molested, though in the wrong.

*Farther along we'll know more about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.*

Sometimes I wonder why I must suffer,
Go in the rain, the cold, and the snow,
When there are many living in comfort,
Giving no heed to all I can do.

Tempted and tried, how often we question
Why we must suffer year after year,
Being accused by those of our loved ones,
Even though we've walked in God's holy care.

-Public Domain (1911) – Words by W.A. Fletcher

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

-Words: F. S. Pierpoint (Public Domain, 1863)

God Made the Heavens and the Earth

Tune "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

God made the heavens and the earth.
God's Spirit moved; they came to be.
For when God spoke, there was the light,
And solid ground, and rolling sea.

*Lord, all creation's a precious gift.
You love this world! So help us live
In your creation's gentle care.*

God saw the earth was very good.
God spoke, and life came bursting forth:
The bright green grass, the shaded wood,
And wondrous creatures 'round the earth.

When I look up and see the stars,
Creation shouts your praise anew.
I humbly ask, "Lord, who am I?"
Yet, we are called to work with you.

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Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

-Words: Thomas Chisholm, music by W. M. Runyan (Public Domain, 1923)

He/She's got the whole world

He's got the whole world in His hands (x4)

He's got the little bitty babies in His hands (x4)

She's got the rivers and the forests in Her hands (x4)

She's got the sisters and the brothers in Her hands (x4)

-African American Spiritual (Public Domain)

Jesus Calls Us

Tune "Come Thou Fount"

Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

-Words: John Bell, Iona Community © 1989. Used by permission.

Khenoronkhwa (Good Medicine)

Jesus, Khenoronkhwa

Jesus, Khenoronkhwa

Jesus, Khenoronkhwa, Hey-ya, hey, hy, yo
Jesus, Kenoronkhwa, Hey-ya, hey, hy, yo

Jesus, Yahweh, Khenoronkhwa

Jesus, Yahweh, Khenoronkhwa

Jesus is Good Medicine, Khenoronkhwa

Jesus is Good Medicine, Khenoronkhwa

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Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first morning.

Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlight from heaven.

Like the first dewfall, on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.

Born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise every morning;

God's recreation of the new day.

-Words: Eleanor Farjeon (Public Domain, 1931)

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;

Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings yea so gently sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen How thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,

If with His love doth befriend thee.

-Words: Joachim Neander (Public Domain, 1680)

Saweniminan

(Cree for "Bless us.")

Oh Great Spirit, living in the sky

Your Holy Name be lifted high

As is above, so be below

Your will be done, Your way be shown

Gitche Manitou, Gitche Manitou

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

We ask only for what we need

Ask only for what we need this day

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

All we need is in the land

every gift of the land is by Your hand

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

Forgive us as we forgive

Set our feet on the paths of peace this day

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

Keep our hearts from the snares of sin

In our trial let not the Tempter win

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

Gitche Manitou, Gitche Manitou

Saweniminan, saweniminan, saweniminan

The whole of Life belongs to You
Your reign on earth be through and through
Glory be to You, Your power send
Glory be to You, world without end

Bless us Great Spirit, You are our life (repeat)

-Words: Marcus Rempel, (2010, Brokenhead). Used by Permission

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?
Coming for to carry me home,
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm coming, too.
Coming for to carry me home.

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home,
But still my soul feels heavenly bound,
Coming for to carry me home.

-African American Spiritual (Public Domain)

Take Good Care - Assembly Morning Song

Take good care of the land and the water

Take good care of the creatures too

Take good care of one another

I'll be taking good care of you.

I made the earth so good and fruitful
To provide for every need
All creation's groaning, ready
For my people my words to heed.

I've taken care to give instructions
Gentle teachings, wise commands
Ways that won't lead to destruction
Ways of living justly in the land.

There's enough for every creature
If you don't exceed your share
Let creation be your teacher
As you live your calling to care.

-Words: Bryan Moyer Suderman, used by permission.

The Cosmic Christ

Tune "House of the Rising Sun"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

Amazing is the Christ who died
Unmasking injustice and curse,
Just as amazing is his life
That fills the universe.

The cosmic Christ moves deep below
To heal the wounds within,
When all creation groans in pain
Because of human sin.

The cosmos hails the Christ, the One
Who reconciles all things,
'Til all creation rises new
With healing in her wings.

-Words: Norman Habel (2004), used by permission.

The Glory of Creation

Tune "I Love to Tell the Story"

The glory of creation, throughout the universe,
So wonderful in essence, delightfully diverse.
The grasslands of the prairies; the mountains in the west,
Established by Creator, with loving care and skill.

*The glory of creation
We marvel in God's splendor
This world so rich and complex
To serve, respect and love*

Deep mysteries, of oceans and unknown outer space,
Migration paths of swallows, the eagle's nesting place.
The more we gain in knowledge, the less we understand
This world so rich and complex, created by God's hand.

But crisis looms upon us; the planet's under threat,
The global climate's changing, the balance is upset.
The melting of the ice caps; diversity declines,
Extinction of key species; we're overwhelmed with signs.

So Father please forgive us for spoiling Planet Earth,
Give us a chance to change it; to instigate new birth,
Let's care for your creation, in details and in whole
Defend, preserve and cherish; may this be our new goal.

-Words: Denzil Walton, used by permission.

This Is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world. God shines in all that's fair,
In the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, O let the heavens ring!
God reigns, let earth be glad.

-Words: M. D. Babcock (Public Domain, 1901)

Wade in the Water

*Wade in the water;
Wade in the water, children,
Wade, in the water;
God's gonna trouble the water.*

See those people dressed in white?
God's gonna trouble the water.
They must be the children of the Israelites,
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water.

See those people dressed in black?
God's gonna trouble the water.
They come a long way and they ain't turning back.
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water.

See those children dressed in blue?
God's gonna trouble the water.
They must be the children that's coming through;
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water.

See those people dressed in red?
God's gonna trouble the water.
They must be the children that Moses led,
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water.

-Traditional spiritual (Public Domain)

What the Lord Creates - Assembly Children Song

Tune of Twinkle Twinkle

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world.
For the people big and small
For the animals short and tall

We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings.

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world.
For the sea and for the sky
For the animals and birds that fly
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings.

Praise him, Praise him, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world.
For the seasons of the year
For the plants that re-appear
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings.

-Words: Jessica, Emily and Sam Crawshaw, used by permission.

Wings of an Eagle (Isaiah 40:31)

As we hope in the Lord
We will gain our strength
We will run for miles
We will stand up straight
We will not grow weary
We will not grow faint
On the wings of an eagle we will rise

*On the wings of an eagle we will rise
On the wings of an eagle we will rise
For our hope is found
In the power of God
On the wings of an eagle we will rise
On the wings of an eagle we will rise*

For the Lord who is God
Takes His people home
Not to be afraid
As we journey the road

Hand in hand we'll be walking
With the Lord our God
On the wings of an eagle we will rise

-Words and Music by Steve Bell, used by permission.

CLOSING WORDS

The World We Live In

*It is God the Creator,
The Great Mystery,
Who conceived the first thought,
Who spoke the first word.*

*It is God who fashioned
All of the known and the unseen Creation
In harmony and balance.*

*It is only a part of the human family
Which has put everything out of balance;
And it is only a small part
Of the human family
Which insists on threatening all life on this planet
With extinction.*

*And now in a desperate search for a solution
To this present insanity
God seems to be the one who is almost entirely left out.*

*The only one who has all the answers
Is the only one who is almost never asked.*

*Yet this is still God's world
And we are His-Her guests;
Is it not about time we ask,
What are we doing here in this part of God's Creation?
Or is it already too late to ask the question?*

-Arthur Solomon (Anishinaabe) - 1985