

SOLIDARITY WITH SISTERS' COMMUNAL CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY 2020

“When we rise, we rise together.” – Sr. Helen Prejean’s Easter Sunday [reflection](#)

GATHERING

O God who creates and who gives breath,
be with us now as we come to you
with the great longings of our world
and of our selves.
We come together
trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us.
Transform us into a people
who rise up together in you.
Help us to let go and to let come.
Help us to live the questions
and to move with you, in you, and toward you,
ever open to what is waiting to be born in us.



BEING HERE: Come as you are, in divine presence

Sit in a position that feels stable and comfortable. Let your breath slow and deepen and find its natural pace, with tensions flowing out as you exhale. Become aware of divine presence in you and around you.

(10 MINUTES OF SILENCE)

EARTH DAY PRAYER

O Creator, Our world is large, and yet your Creation is so fragile.
We glimpse the needs of our common home, of our sisters and brothers, and those needs are great.
We want to turn away, but you call us back.
We want simple solutions, but you want us to help solve the complex problems.
You call us to listen, to learn, to reflect and to act.
Give us a deep sense of our place in this web of Creation.
Give us the wisdom of mind and generosity of heart to seek your will in the world today.
Inspire us to respond to the call to live in solidarity with all of your Creation,
so that the Earth, and all children of God, might live in dignity and peace. Amen

AWARENESS (From the poem “Lockdown” by Fr. Richard McGinley)

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.
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.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.

(20 MINUTES OF SILENCE)

INTENTION

O God, your creative love brought forth our world, once a garden where humans could taste and see beauty and goodness. But our eyes do not always see the sacredness of Creation. We do not always remember that it is Gift given so that all humans may live and flourish. Inattention can change the world. Even mighty glaciers weep now. Lifestyles create pollution that blot out the sun. The very skies above us are threatened. Seas rise and whole peoples lose their homes. O God, we ask you to call us to renewal and to stewardship. Call us to solidarity with the earth and all its creatures. Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains with us. Give us new spiritual energy to become active in loving the world through our daily lives, Give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity. Bless us with a love of your Creation so that we may glimpse your Eden once again.

God within us, give us courage and wisdom for this choice and for this work. Holy One, hear our prayer.

God among us, as we imagine past this time of coronavirus, help us to come out of this time in solidarity with all who are most vulnerable, and with Earth itself, in companionship with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Holy One, hear our prayer.

God in all things, help us to recognize you during this pandemic in the endless ways you are present – in suffering, in goodness, and truth, in ourselves, and in Earth. Holy One, hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray?.... (After each prayer:) Holy One, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, that “It is not ours to see the future. Our task is not to create a plan for the new to emerge. It is to create a space for the new to emerge. For the young. For the growing diversities. A space where the Holy Spirit is free to work. If we can do this, the future will emerge. And it will be good.” And so we pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE