

INTERFAITH PRAYERS

NUMBER	I1
TITLE	A Meditation by Sophie Jakowski
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Sophie Jakowski
YEAR	1990
THEME	nature, reading, meditation, resources, praise, beauty,
SEASON	Any

READER 1: Knowledge must be used to save nature, to restore it. Forests, soils, waters, the flora & fauna, all are necessary. They must be used wisely to permit their renewal.

READER 2: We cannot use them without considering the future. Future generations, after us, will depend on what is left.

All: We have duties toward God & toward one another.

We also have serious obligations towards nature. Our life depends on it. We owe nature a great debt.

READER 1: All the things God made are wonderful.

READER 2: All the things God has made are good.

All: All the things God has made are beautiful.

READER 1: Let us contemplate nature undisturbed and at peace: think of the sky and the mountains...

think of the ocean and the rivers...

think of fields and forests...

READER 2: Let us look around...

Think of the beauty of the little corner where we live.

There are still many beautiful places on earth that we can protect and make more beautiful. There are still many plants and animals we can save from extinction. They may help us survive.

All: God has given us the intelligence & ability to do this. Let us live in peace with the earth. So be it. Amen!

NUMBER	I2
TITLE	Blessing of Loving-Kindness
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	peace, hatred, evil, mother,
SEASON	Any

May every creature abound in well-being and peace.

May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small,

The short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great

May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off,

Those near by, those already born, those waiting to be born
 May all attain inward peace
 Let no one deceive another
 Let no one despise another in any situation
 Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all.
 Just as a mother, with her own life, protects her only child from hurt
 So within yourself foster a limitless concern for every living creature.
 Display a heart of boundless love for all the world
 In all its height and depth and broad extent
 Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity.
 Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie, until overcome by drowsiness
 Devote your mind entirely to this, it is known as living here life divine.

NUMBER	I3
TITLE	Litany for the Four Directions
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Jay C. Rochelle
YEAR	1990
THEME	Four Directions, litany, praise, North, South, East, West, birds, salmon, pine, fish

SEASON

Leader: Let us give thanks for the East, for the ancient hills and valleys and streams without end, for the green Atlantic from the reaches of Maine to the Florida Keys, for larch and hemlock, for black bear and mountain trout, for cardinals and eastern bluebirds, for heat in the hayfields of late August:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the East.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the West, for soaring mountains and searing deserts, for waters roaring into the Pacific Ocean, for Columbia River salmon, snow buntings and western meadowlarks, for ponderosa and Jeffrey pine, for the mists of the Oregon coast and for the Olympic peninsula:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the West.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the North, for the bright band of prairie and wheatfields stretching across the land, for the jayhawk and the loon, for the badlands of the Dakotas and the lakes of Minnesota, for northern pike and steeleye, for winding two-lane blacktops in the heart of Wyoming.

Response: We bless you, O God, for the North

Leader: Let us give thanks for the South, for the broad Mississippi delta and the great Smokey Mountains, for the bayous of Louisiana, for magnolia trees, for the kiskadee and egret, for catfish and parrotfish and for the cotton and the colors on the sands and strands of the southland:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the South.

NUMBER	I 4
TITLE	A Litany of Sorrow

TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR from: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 YEAR Earth Day 1990
 THEME litany, sorrow, cosmos, earth, security, knowledge, power, poison, pollution, change
 SEASON Any

Leader:

We have forgotten who we are
 We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos
 We have become estranged from the movements of the earth

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

We have sought only our own security
 We have exploited simply for our own ends
 We have distorted our knowledge
 We have abused our power.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

Now the land is barren
 And the waters are poisoned
 And the air is polluted.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

Now the forests are dying
 And the creatures are disappearing
 And humans are despairing.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

We ask forgiveness
 We ask for the gift of remembering

We ask for the strength to change.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (Allow for a period of silence)

NUMBER I 5
 TITLE A Litany for Healing
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR [?] from: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 YEAR Earth Day 1990
 THEME litany, healing, air, land, waters, forests, plants, creatures, seas, sunlight, stars, earth, justice, peace, humanity
 SEASON Any

Leader:

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters

To refresh the air

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader:

To renew the forests

To care for the plants

To protect the creatures

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader:

To celebrate the seas

To rejoice in the sunlight

To sing the song of the stars

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader:

To recall our destiny

To renew our spirits

To reinvigorate our bodies

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader:

To recreate the human community

To promote justice and peace

To remember our children

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

**All: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. (silence)**

NUMBER I 6
 TITLE A Litany of Gratitude
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR [?] from: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 YEAR Earth Day 1990
 THEME litany, gratitude, thanks, life, food, creation
 SEASON Any

Leader:

We live in all things
 All things live in us

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We live by the sun
 We move with the stars

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We eat from the earth
 We drink from the rain
 We breathe from the air

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We share with the creatures
 We have strength through their gifts

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We depend on the forests
 We have knowledge through their secrets

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding
 We have the responsibility of caring

We have the joy of celebrating
Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We are full of the grace of creation
 We are graceful
 We are grateful

All: We rejoice in all life

NUMBER	I 7
TITLE	A Litany for God's Guidance
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd) source: "Coming to See"
YEAR	1992
THEME	litany, guidance, choice, living things, creation
SEASON	Any

Leader: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: We are born citizens of God's world.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: Give us a clear vision, O God.

Leader: May our sights be greater than house to house.

People: Give us clear vision, O God.

Leader: Grant us the knowledge to make tough choices for our world.

People: God, year with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Cause us to share life from generation to generation.

People: God, you are with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Challenge our stewardship to renew the heights with living things.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth.

Leader: Many and great are your things, O God, maker of earth and sky.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. Amen

NUMBER	I8
TITLE	Litany of Praise
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Source unknown
YEAR	(tbd)

THEME Praise, Edgar Mitchell, Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic,
astronaut, Annie Dillard, Brian Swimme, TS Eliot, creation

SEASON Any

Left: "The Earth. . . is a sparkling blue and white jewel. . . laced with slowly swirling veils of white. . . like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery."
(*Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: "O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos, you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle." (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "It could be that god has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem."
(*Annie Dillard, naturalist writer*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: ". . . stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of. .
." (*Elisabet Sahtouris, Ecofeminist*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "Great Spirit, . . . give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! . . . all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. . . This is my prayer; hear me!" (*Black Elk, Oglala Sioux*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: "There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you." (*Zen saying*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: ". . . for in God we live/ and move/ and have our being." (*Acts 17:28*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: ". . . When you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation. . . The elementary particles of your body have absorbed an influence and in that sense they--and you--are brand spanking new, a human being resonating everywhere with moonlight." (*Brian Swimme, physicist*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "We shall not cease from exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time." (*T. S. Eliot, poet*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

NUMBER	I9
TITLE	Litany for Growth
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Source unknown

YEAR (td)
 THEME growth, creation, praise, nature
 SEASON Any

Leader: God, Source of all life, how excellent is your name in all the earthy.

All: All people glorify your holy name together.

Leader: The majesty and vastness of your creation wraps us round with power and wonder.

All: We thank you, O God.

Leader: For the fertility to nourish cattle and fields, for the means allowing persons and families to survive.

All: We thank you, O God.

Leader: God made these great works, the gardens and seas; God's hands these wonders wrought.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: For the joy of being a part of nature throughout all our days and in all our ways.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: That it may please you to sustain that mighty power which made the mountains rise and sets forth each morning's challenge.

All: We beseech you to hear us, O God.

Leader: That it may please you to continue to guide us through the dark nights and never ending days of our creation.

All: We beseech you to hear us, O God.

Leader: O God, whatever is true, whatever is just, we have received from your hand.

All: We praise you, O God, and bless your Holy Name. Amen.

NUMBER I10
 TITLE A Call to Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR Hildegard of Bingen
 YEAR (td)
 THEME Hildegard of Bingen, mother, earth, seeds, creation
 SEASON Any

The earth is at the same time mother,
 She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human.
 She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all.
 The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power.
 It is in so many ways fruitful.
 All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind,
 but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son.

NUMBER	I11
TITLE	A Prayer of Awareness
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	awareness, Hildegard of Bingen, life, glory, earth
SEASON	Any

God is the foundation for everything
 This God undertakes, God gives.
 Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.
 Now humankind needs a body that at all times honors and praises God.
 This body is supported in every way through the earth.
 Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

NUMBER	I12
TITLE	A Call to Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	sense, loss, communion, sorrow, guilt, Sabbath, Quiet, recovering
SEASON	Any

We who have lost our sense and our senses--our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are: we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt.
 We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of Quiet; for simply being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.

NUMBER	I13
TITLE	A Prayer of Awareness
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith

AUTHOR (td)
 YEAR (td)
 THEME energy, existence, diversity, creation, fascination,
 revelation, mystery of life
 SEASON Any

Today we know of the energy that moves all things: the oneness of existence, the diversity and uniqueness of every moment of creation, every shape and form, the attraction, the allurements, the fascination that all things have for one another.

Humbled by our knowledge, chastened by surprising revelations, with awe and reverence we come before the mystery of life.

NUMBER I14
 TITLE Prayer by St. Patrick
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR St. Patrick
 YEAR (td)
 THEME St. Patrick, heaven, Tara, lightning, fire, winds, sea, rocks,
 Earth, Darkness
 SEASON Any

At Tara today in this fateful hour
 I place all heaven with its power,
 And the sun with its brightness,
 And the snow with its whiteness,
 And Fire with all the strength it hath,
 And Lightning with its rapid wrath,
 And the winds with their swiftness along their path,
 And the sea with its deepness,
 And the rocks with their steepness
 And the Earth with its starkness;
 All these I place
 By God's almighty help and grace,
 Between myself and the powers of Darkness.

NUMBER I15
 TITLE Earth Day Opening Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR Taken from liturgy materials used on Earth Day 1997 at
 Seattle University. Provided by Earth Ministry
 YEAR 1997

THEME Creator, creation, earth, stewardship, Psalmist, ancestors,
faith, sea, vines, heaven, faith

SEASON Any

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image.

We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you.

We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

"God speaks: the heavens are made;
God breathes: the stars shine.
God bottles the waters of the sea
and stores them in the deep
All earth, be astounded,
stand in awe of God."

Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever, Amen.

NUMBER	I16
TITLE	(unknown)
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Source: service from August 1992, "Coming to See"
YEAR	1992
THEME	Mother Earth, rebirth, springtime, splendor, sea, miracles, stewardship, creation
SEASON	Spring

All people of the earth, each and every nation
Arise and rejoice at the continued creation
Of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
Of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!

Who despite our apparent lack of care
Creates bountiful splendor for all to share
From mountain tops to the deepest sea
All wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!

Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
 Of the people to replenish and renew the land
 From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
 To unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.

Become a midwife to the birth of each flower
 A guardian of our resources hour by hour
 We must learn to take time to appreciate
 The miracles of which we did not create.

For God has given this wonderful treasure
 And its preservation will be the measure
 Of people who recognize and will celebrate
 The birth of each season before it's too late.

In citizenship, in willingness to toil
 We must bend our backs and tend to the soil
 In stewardship, arise and applaud the worth
 Of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!

Consider creation. . . . Consider it now.

NUMBER	I17
TITLE	Psalm of the Cosmos
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Source unknown
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	creation, praise, nature, mystery, universe, cosmos, pilgrims of the earth
SEASON	Any

Loving God, loving God,
 all creation calls you blessed,
 and so do we, and so do we.

Loving God,
 all your creation calls you blessed.
 Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.
 Yes, all creation proclaims your love.
 We now join this chorus of praise.

Loving God,
 all of nature calls you blessed,
 and so do we.

For you have woven an intimate tapestry
 and call it life
 and called it good.

In love you have formed a universe
 so diverse yet so related,
 and into its web you call us forth
 to walk the land and swim the sea
 with all our natural brothers and sisters.

To the stars
 we seem no more than blades of grass.
 Yet to you, each of us,
 as each blade of grass and each star,
 is an irreplaceable treasure,
 an essential companion on this journey of love.

Loving God, as you lure the whole world into salvation,
 guide us with your Spirit
 that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
 but pilgrims with the earth,
 journeying home to you.

Open our hearts to understand
 the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.
 Only with this faith can we hope
 for tomorrow's children.
 Amen. Alleluia!

Loving God, loving God,
 all creation calls you blessed,
 and so do we, and so do we.

NUMBER	I18
TITLE	A Reflection of our Present Plight
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Hildegard of Bingen, humanity, creation, Justice, privilege

SEASON Any

The high,
the low
all of creation
God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused,
God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity.

NUMBER I19
TITLE Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
TRADITION Interfaith
AUTHOR Mary Goergen, OSF
YEAR (tbd)
THEME butterfly, dragonfly, lightning, thunder, spring, flower,
birds, crickets, frogs, grass, trees
SEASON Spring

Be praised, my God, by butterfly and dragonfly wings exercising
for their first flight.

Be praised by lightning and thunder causing spring showers.

Be praised by the silent voice of grass growing and trees budding.

Be praised by all the colorful flower trumpets of spring.

Be praised by downy feathers freshly dried on newly hatched
ducklings and chicks.

Be praised by the songs of birds, crickets, and frogs.

Be praised, my God, by all your creation which tells of new life.

NUMBER I20
TITLE Prayer to the Creator
TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
TRADITION Interfaith
AUTHOR from *Blessings for All Occasions*. Hugo Schlesinger,
Humberto Porto
YEAR 1987
THEME Universe, Creator, darkness, human, creation, stewardship
SEASON Any

Blessed are you, Creator of the Universe
 who out of darkness brought forth light
 and who rule the universe by your word.
 Send far away from us
 the darkness of error and evil
 and direct us to the knowledge of your name's glory.
 Blessed are you, Creator of the Universe,
 who brought forth from nothing everything
 and renew unceasingly days and seasons.
 Be merciful with us in your great power
 and multiply in us the grace of your kindness.
 Blessed are you, Creator of the Universe,
 who created human beings with amazing perfection
 and who want your image and likeness to shine in them.
 Accept us all under your shining gaze
 and grant that we may live up to your aim of love.
 Blessed are you, Creator of the Universe,
 who sustain all beings in time and space and penetrate
 everything with your overpowering presence.
 Fulfill the innermost desires of your heart
 and guide in peace
 the destiny of all human beings.
 Blessed are you, Creator of the Universe,
 who communicate your energy to all created beings
 and direct humankind in your path.
 Make us your co-workers in the harmony of the world,
 and help us to fulfill in history
 the mystery of your creation. Amen.

NUMBER	I21
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	St. Augustine
YEAR	late 12 th century, early 13th
THEME	St. Augustine, laws, orders, seasons, cycles, sun, stars, praise, adoration
SEASON	Any

O God, by whose laws the poles revolve, the stars follow their courses, the sun rules the day and the moon presides over the night; and all the world maintains, as far as this world of sense allows, the wondrous stability of things by means of the orders and recurrences of seasons: through the days by the changing of light and darkness, through the months by the moon's progressions and declines, through the years by the successions of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, through the

cycles by the completion of the sun's course, through the great eras of time by the return of the stars to their starting points.

NUMBER	I22
TITLE	Directions Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Directions, North, South, East, West, Creation, love, life, plants, trees, animals, heart
SEASON	Any

[North: Facing north, holding incense, read or adapt these words:]
 Lord, God of all creation, we face the north, the direction from which the cold winds blow. Warm our heart when we become coldhearted. Allow your love and your light to warm and renew our heart. We praise you Lord, for your creation, fo the plants, the trees, and the animals. May our heart be warm and open to your presence around us in the plants, trees, and animals.

[East: Facing east, holding incense, read or adapt these words:]
 Lord, God of all creation, we face the east, the direction in which the sun rises. We remember how Jesus rose from the dead, bringing light and life to darkness and death. We celebrate the sunrise, Lord, as we celebrate the new life that we have in your love. May our heart be open to your Spirit as we live in your new life.

[South: Facing south, holding incense, read or adapt these words:]
 Lord, God of all creation, we face the south, the direction from which warm winds enter our life. We look forward to living in your warmth as we experience your presence in the people we encounter this day. Warm us, Lord, with your love. Renew our hearts and bring us new life through your love.

[West: Facing wet, holding incense, read or adapt these words:]
 Lord, God of all creation, we face the west, the direction from which storms enter our life. We ask for your protection Lord, as storms enter our relationships, our understanding of ourselves, and our understanding of others. Lord, calm the storms in our life. Give us strength to endure trials, and give us peace when we experience turmoil and strife.
 We ask you, God, Lord of all creation, to be with us today. We ask for your protection, we seek your wisdom, we enjoy your presence in others and in nature.

NUMBER	I23
TITLE	No title
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	St. Basil the Great

YEAR 4th century
 THEME St. Basil, fellowship, shame, dominion, life
 SEASON Any

Oh God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, even our brothers and sisters the animals, to whom you have given the earth as their home in common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised our high dominion with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to you in song, has been a groan of pain.

May we realize that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for you, and that they love the sweetness of life.

NUMBER I24
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR (tbd)
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME wilderness, modern life, convenience, poor, technology, suffer, possessions, responsive
 SEASON Any

- One** We expect to encounter you in the comfort of our living rooms, O God.
- All** But you are calling us out into the wildness of the desert night
- One** We grasp tightly to the conveniences and amenities of modern life.
- All** We are so sated with rich food that we have forgotten what it means to hunger for your presence.
- One** We are so comfortable that we forget about those who suffer.
- All** Our schedules and our possessions require all our time and attention.
- One** The noise of technology shuts out the voices of the poor and needy.
- All** Lead us into the wilderness that we may remember who are and discover who we are.

NUMBER I25
 TITLE A Litany of Confession
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR (Adapted from "A Litany of Confession," by Judy Lee Hay, *Church and Society*, July/August 1996, pp. 146-47, as adapted from the United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program in Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon eds., *Earth Prayers*, [Harper San Francisco, 1991], pp. 70-71. Used by permission of *Church and Society*.)
 YEAR 1996

THEME	Litany, knowledge, power, land, forests, forgiveness, despair, security, creatures, humans, earth
SEASON	Any
Leader	We have forgotten who we are.
All	We have forgotten who we are
Voice 1	We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.
Voice 2	We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.
Voice 3	We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.
All	We have forgotten who we are
Voice 1	We have sought only our own security.
Voice 2	We have exploited simply for our own needs.
Voice 3	We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.
All	We have forgotten who we are.
Voice 1	Now that the land is barren
Voice 2	And the air is polluted
Voice 3	And the waters are poisoned.
All	We have forgotten who we are.
Voice 1	Now the forests are dying
Voice 2	And the creatures are disappearing
Voice 3	And humans are despairing
All	We have forgotten who we are. We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. We have forgotten who we are.

NUMBER	I26
TITLE	Unison Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	waters, land, people, flowers, trees, fish, animals, species, creation, Sabbath, Creator, awe, reverence
SEASON	Any

Holy God, You created the heavens and the earth, the waters and the land, the people, flowers, trees, fish, animals, and all the millions of species, named and unnamed, in the marvelous creation of yours. Then on the seventh day, you rested.

O God, the ground you created is holy ground. The creatures you created are holy creatures. On this Sabbath day and every day, let us remember that you are the Creator of all that is.

Help us to rest our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. Help us to take off our shoes and approach you with awe and reverence. Help us to recall the sacredness of all creation.

Amen.

NUMBER	I27
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(from <i>Peacemaking Through Worship II</i> . Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	eternity, womb, change, universe, heart, blessing
SEASON	Any

From before the world began and after the end of eternity,

You are God.

From the sea bursting out of its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase,

You are God.

In the constancy of created things, and in their rhythm of change,

You are God.

In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corner of our hearts,

You are God.

You are our God

And we bless You.

NUMBER	I28
TITLE	Litany
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Creation, rain, water, stewardship, joy, harmony, animals, plants, soil, grace
SEASON	Any

Leader Let us praise God for the wondrous works of Creation.

People For all these gifts, we praise God's name together.

Leader God has placed us on this earth to dress it and keep it.

People For all these gifts, we praise God's name together.

Leader For the common soil which nourishes and sustains all life;

People We raise our hymn of grateful praise.

Leader For the life giving rain to water the earth and bestow life on all beings;

People We raise our hymn of grateful praise.

Leader For the wonders of the plants and the animals in our world;
People Let all the peoples praise you, O God.
Leader For the diverse peoples who touch each life with love;
People Let all the people praise you, O God.
Leader God has filled the air with sound and harmony;
People We shout and sing together for joy.
Leader Blessed are those who grow in the grace and knowledge of
 God;
People We shout and sing together for joy. AMEN.

NUMBER I29
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR William Blake
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME sand, wild flower, heaven, eternity, infinity
 SEASON Any

To see a world in a grain of sand
 And a heaven in a wild flower,
 Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
 And eternity in an hour.

NUMBER I30
 TITLE Celtic Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR Unknown
 YEAR Unknown
 THEME Celtic, flowers, lichen, seaweed, praise, morning, summer,
 autumn, eternity, grasses
 SEASON Any [Autumn]

Almighty God, Creator: the morning is yours, rising into fullness. The
 summer is yours, dipping into autumn. Eternity is yours, dipping into
 time. The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the lichen on the rocks, the
 tang of seaweed. All is your. Gladly we live in this garden of your
 creating.

NUMBER I31
 TITLE Blessing prayer for pets (excerpt)
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR -from the "Blessing of All Creatures" service offered in
 1994 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids,
 MI

YEAR 1994
 THEME animals, pets, blessing, Creation, birds, beasts, fish, fowl, creatures, purpose, beauty
 SEASON Any
 O Supreme Spirit of Creation, from Your sacred breath came forth birds and beasts, fish and fowl, creatures of such a variety and beauty that we are continuously amazed at Your divine imagination.

These children of Yours, have been blessed by You, their Creator, with simplicity, beauty, and a cosmic purpose...

NUMBER I32
 TITLE Blessing for Pets*
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR from the "Blessing of All Creatures" service offered in 1994 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, MI
 YEAR 1994
 THEME animals, companion, rest, creature, belssing
 SEASON Any

**(pets and people process to the front or remain seated for this blessing from an assisting minister)*

May Your abundant blessing rest upon this creature who will be a companion for us in the journey of life. Amen.

NUMBER I33
 TITLE "Aren't You Going Too Far, Lord..."
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith
 AUTHOR Helder Camara
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME human freedom, poor, poverty, selfishness, natural disasters, floods, draughts, earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions
 SEASON Any

...with your respect for human freedom?
 Your love extends to all creatures.

But you reserve your special love
 For the small, the simple, the poor.
 Then how can you bear to see
 These millions
 Of your sons and daughters

Living in subhuman conditions
 Owing to the selfishness
 And ambition
 Of unjust and oppressive minorities?

By now you must have realized
 That your cataclysms-
 Floods and droughts,
 Volcanic eruptions,
 Typhoons,
 Earthquakes-
 Affect the little ones most of all,
 Whose life is already
 Subhuman

Isn't it bad enough
 For them to be crushed
 By disease or human weakness?

How are we to explain
 What comes from you?
 Is it sufficient to say
 That you have given us brains
 And teach us how to overcome
 Natural disasters?

NUMBER	I34
TITLE	The Tree of Life
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Celtic prayer
YEAR	unknown
THEME	Tree of Life, birds, fruit, praise, breath, Spirit
SEASON	Any

O, King of the Tree of Life,
 The blossoms on the branches are your people,
 The singing birds are your angels,
 The whispering breeze is your Spirit.

O, King of the Tree of Life,
 May the blossoms bring forth the sweetest fruit,
 May the birds sing out the highest praise
 May your Spirit cover all with his gentle breath.

NUMBER	I35
TITLE	Serpent and Dove

TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Henri Nouwen
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	serpents, doves, social, economic, evil, courage, justice, act
SEASON	Any

Dear Lord, you have sent me into this world to preach your word. So often the problems of the world seem so complex and intricate that your word strikes me as embarrassingly simple. Many times I feel tongue-tied in the company of people who are dealing with the world's social and economic problems.

But you, O Lord, said "Be clever as serpents and innocent as doves". Let me retain innocence and simplicity in the midst of this complex world. I realize that I have to be informed, that I have to study the many aspects of the problems facing the world, and that I have to try to understand as well as possible the dynamics of our contemporary society. But what really counts is that all this information, knowledge, and insight allows me to speak more clearly and unambiguously your truthful word. Do not allow evil powers to seduce me with the complexities of the world's problems, but give me the strength to think clearly, speak freely, and act boldly in your service. Give the courage to show the dove in a world so full of serpents.

NUMBER	I36
TITLE	Sun and Moon
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Brother Ramon
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	sun, moon, stars, spheres, tender love
SEASON	Any

Heavenly Father: you have set sun, moon and stars in their places and the music of the spheres sings your praise; as I reflect upon their glory and your handiwork, grant me a greater awareness of the wonder of your being and a deeper appreciation of your tender love.

NUMBER	I37
TITLE	For the World
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Walter Rauschenbusch
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	universe, constellations, praise, thanks, splendour, fellowship, joy, Earth, fertility
SEASON	Any

O God, we thank thee for this universe, our great home; for its vastness and its riches, and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it and of which we are part. We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds, for the driving clouds, and the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees, and for the grass under our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can see the splendour of the morning, and hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of the springtime. Grant us, we pray thee, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty, and save our souls from being so steeped in care or so darkened by passion that we pass heedless and unseeing when even the thornbush by the wayside is aflame with the glory of God.

Enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all the living things, our little brothers, so whom thou hast given this earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the Earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life, even as we, and serve thee in their place better than we in ours.

When our use of this world is over and we make room for others, may we not leave anything ravished by our greed or spoiled by our ignorance, but may we hand our common heritage fairer and sweeter through our use of it, undiminished in fertility and joy, that so our bodies may return in peace to the great mother who nourished them and our spirits may round the circle of a perfect life in thee.

NUMBER	I38
TITLE	In Time of Rain
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Robert Louis Stevenson
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	rain, mercy, patience, courage, darkness
SEASON	Any

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer. And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down. Let us not lose the savour of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

NUMBER	I39
TITLE	Call to Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith

AUTHOR	(Source: a Native American prayer and service prepared for Church Women United by a group of Native American women. Used by permission.)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Native American, Great Spirit, wisdom, Beauty, spirit, shame, sunset, strength, wisdom
SEASON	Any
All	O Great Spirit Whose breath gives life to the world and whose Voice is heard in the soft breeze, we need your Strength and wisdom. May we walk in Beauty. May our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes so when life fades, as the fading sunset, Our spirits may come to you without shame.
Leader	The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
All	The world and all those who dwell in it.

NUMBER	I40
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	E.E. Cummings
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	thanks, trees, natural, infinite, sky, dream
SEASON	Any
	Thank you God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes[sic]

NUMBER	I41
TITLE	Litany
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	source: UN Environmental Sabbath Programme
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	litany, land, waters, air, earth, forests, plants, creatures, sunlight, peace, renewal, life
SEASON	Any

We join with the earth and with each other

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with the other

To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other

To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children

We join with the earth and with each other

We join together as many and diverse expressions
Of one loving memory: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all
life.

NUMBER	I42
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Hildegard of Bingen
YEAR	4th century
THEME	Hildegard of Bingen, breeze, green, rain, joy, grasses, life, earth
SEASON	Any

I am the one whose praise echoes on high
I adorn all the earth
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green
I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.
I am led by the spirit to feed the purest streams.
I am the rain coming from the dew
That causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.
I am the yearning for good.

NUMBER	I43
TITLE	Return Blessings
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	-Carolyn Merchant, <i>The Death of Nature: Women Ecology and the Scientific Revolution</i> (New York: Harper & Row, 1980), xv.
YEAR	1980
THEME	blessings, Sacred Earth, creation, air, water, fire, food, justice, sisters, brothers, creatures, birds, trees, flowers, rivers, mountains, stars, moons, planets, galaxies, seasons, peace
SEASON	Any

Return blessings, O Holy Ones,
So life's cycles can continue with beauty, balance,
And abundance.
May life's cycles return blessings.

Return blessings, Sacred Earth.
So air, water, fire, and food can nourish all we hold dear.
May air, water, fire, and food return blessings.

Return blessings, Beloved Sisters and Brothers,
So all creation can share pleasure and do justice.
May all creation return blessings.

Return blessings, Crawling Creatures and Winged Friends,
So the Earth can be renewed.
May the Earth return blessings.

Return blessings, Trees, Flowers, Rivers, Mountains,
So nature can refresh all spirits.
May nature return blessings.

Return blessings, Stars, Moons, Planets, Galaxies,
So wonder can nourish all visions.
May wonder return blessings.

Return blessings, Changing Seasons,
So life's cycles can continue in peace.
May life's cycles return blessings.

NUMBER	I44
TITLE	We Give-away Our Thanks
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Dolores La Chapelle
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	thanks, earth, home, rivers, lakes, water, trees, fruits, nuts, wind, rain, water, sun, trees, animals, wind, rivers, promise balance, earth
SEASON	Any

We give-away our thanks to the earth which gives us our home.
 We give-away our thanks to the rivers and lakes which give-away their water.
 We give-away our thanks to the trees which give-away fruit and nuts.
 We give-away our thanks to the wind which brings rain to water the plants.
 We give-away our thanks to the sun who gives-away warmth and light.
 All beings on earth: the trees, the animals, the wind, and the rivers give-away to one another so all is in balance.
 We give-away our promise to being to learn how to stay in balance with all the earth.

NUMBER	I45
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Ernesto Cardenal
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	creatures, Sirius, Arcturus, Antares, Aldebaran, atoms, molecules, comets, meteorites, airplanes, United Nations, Caribbean, radiolarian, cetaceans, submarines, Amazon, Tropic of Cancer, Humboldt Current, praise
SEASON	Any

Praise the Lord in your infinite variety all creatures,
 Minute and enormous in your verity
 Whose particular and unique features
 Are the context of his glory and his fecundity
 Praise the Lord nebulae like grains of dust
 Silhouetted and fixed on photographic plates
 Sirius, that dog star and his confederates
 Arcturus, Antares, Aldebaran, the red bull
 God's cup brimming over and ever full
 Praise the Lord you his meteorites and comets
 In your elliptical orbits and made planets
 Praise the Lord atoms and molecules
 Protons and electrons and all the stars
 The minute protozoa, in their liquid, the radiolarian

Praise the Lord cetaceans and atomic submarines
 For you are of God's mind in your particulars
 Birds, the eagle and wren, the aeroplanes
 And prisms in emerald copper sulphate
 In the electronic microscope infinite
 Coloured flowers blooming at the bottom of the sea,
 Diatoms and the diadems of the Antilles
 Like a rose of diamonds, let all these
 And the unended maritime fauna
 Praise the Lord, and the Tropic of Cancer
 Storms of North Atlantic and the Humboldt current,
 The dark, sweating forests of the Amazon
 The shining island jewels of the South Ocean
 Volcanoes and lagoons and the Caribbean
 Behind the silhouettes of the infinite palm
 Democratic republics, the United Nations
 Praise the Lord as even for police is appropriate
 The students, the young, the beautiful
 His glory surpasses the heavens, it is bountiful
 Telescope and microscope seeing near and far
 It is he who has made the people plentiful
 Who would not yield to the Lord the word hosanna?

NUMBER	I46
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Carl Sandburg
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	sky, morning, skyscraper, miracle of light, Earth, the Sun
SEASON	Any

Bless Thee, O Lord, for the living arc of the sky over me this morning.
 Bless Thee, O Lord, for the companionship of night mist far above the skyscraper
 peaks I saw when I woke once during the night.
 Bless Thee, O Lord, for the miracle of light to my eyes and the mystery of it ever
 changing.
 Bless Thee, O Lord, for the laws Thou hast ordained holding fast these tall
 oblongs of stone and steel, holding fast the planet Earth in its course and farther
 beyond the cycle of the Sun.

NUMBER	I47
TITLE	A Circle Blessing in the Midst of Redwood Trees
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)

THEME blessing, Redwood Trees, Creator, life of trees, creatures,
gift of life

SEASON Any

Loving Creator, we owe our existence to you.
All living creatures come from you.
Today we find ourselves coming here to remember the gift of life of trees and all
other life forms to which we and they are related.
We bless you this day. Amen.

NUMBER	I48
TITLE	Lotus Sutra, "Dharma Rain"
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Buddhist
AUTHOR	sacred prayer
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Lotus Sutra, nature, creation, Buddha, weather, praise, trees, Dharma
SEASON	Any

The Thus Come One, worthy of honor and reverence,
is profound and far-reaching in wisdom.
For long he remained silent regarding the essential,
in no hurry to speak of it at once.
If those who are wise hear of it
they can believe and understand it,
but those without wisdom will have doubts and regrets
and for all time will remain in error.
For this reason,
he adjusts to the person's power when preaching,
taking advantage of various causes
and enabling the person to gain a correct view.
You should understand
that it is like a great cloud
that rises up in the world
and covers it all over.
This beneficent cloud is laden with moisture;
the lightning gleams and flashes,
and the sound of thunder reverberates afar,
causing the multitude to rejoice.
The sun's rays are veiled and hidden,
a clear coolness comes over the land;
masses of darkness descend and spread—
you can almost touch them.
The rain falls everywhere,
coming down on all four sides.
Its flow and saturation are measureless,

reaching to every area of the earth,
to the ravines and valleys of the mountains and streams,
to the remote and secluded places where grow
plants, bushes, medicinal herbs,
trees large and small,
a hundred grains, rice seedlings,
sugar cane, grape vines.
The rain moistens them all,
none fails to receive its full share.
The parched ground is everywhere watered,
herbs and trees alike grow lush.
What falls from the cloud
is water of a single flavor,
but the plants and trees, thickets and groves,
each accept the moisture that is appropriate to its portion.
All the various trees,
whether superior, middling, or inferior,
take what is fitting for large or small,
and each is enabled to sprout and grow.
Root, stem, limb, leaf,
the glow and hue of flower and fruit—
one rain extends to them
and all are able to become fresh and glossy.
Whether their allotment
of substance, form, and nature is large or small,
the moistening they receive is one,
but each grows and flourishes in its own way.
The Buddha is like this
when he appears in the world,
comparable to a great cloud
that covers all things everywhere.
Having appeared in the world,
or the sake of living beings
he makes distinctions in expounding
the truth regarding phenomena.
The great sage, the World-Honored One,
to heavenly and human beings,
in the midst of all beings,
pronounces these words:
I am the Thus Come One,
most honored of two-legged beings.
I appear in the world
like a great cloud
that showers moisture upon
all the dry and withered living beings,
so that all are able to escape suffering,

gain the joy of peace and security,
 the joys of this world
 and the joy of nirvana.
 All you heavenly and human beings of this assembly,
 listen carefully and with one mind! . . .

I bring fullness and satisfaction to the world,
 like a rain that spreads its moisture everywhere.
 Eminent and lowly, superior and inferior,
 observers of precepts, violators of precepts,
 those fully endowed with proper demeanor,
 those not fully endowed,
 those of correct views, of erroneous views,
 of keen capacity, of dull capacity—
 I cause the Dharma rain to rain on all equally,
 never lax or neglectful.
 When all the various living beings
 hear my Law,
 they receive it according to their power,
 dwelling in their different environments.
 Some inhabit the realm of human and heavenly beings,
 of wheel-turning sage kings,
 Shakra, Brahma and the other kings—
 these are the inferior medicinal herbs.
 Some understand the Law of no outflows,
 are able to attain nirvana,
 to acquire the six transcendental powers
 and gain in particular the three understandings,
 or live alone in mountain forests,
 constantly practicing meditation
 and gaining the enlightenment of pratyekabuddhas—
 these are the middling medicinal herbs.
 Still others seek the place of the World-Honored One,
 convinced that they can become Buddhas,
 putting forth diligent effort and practicing meditation—
 these are the superior medicinal herbs.
 Again there are sons of the Buddha
 who devote their minds solely to the Buddha way,
 constantly practicing mercy and compassion,
 knowing that they themselves will attain Buddhahood,
 certain of it and never doubting—
 these I call the small trees.
 Those who abide in peace in their transcendental powers,
 turning the wheel of non-regression,
 saving innumerable millions
 of hundreds of thousands of living beings—

bodhisattvas such as these
 I call the large trees.
 The equality of the Buddha's preaching
 is like a rain of a single flavor,
 but depending upon the nature of the living being,
 the way in which it is received is not uniform,
 just as the various plants and trees
 each receive the moisture in a different manner.
 The Buddha employs this parable
 As an expedient means to open up and reveal the matter,
 using various kinds of words and phrases
 and expounding the single Law,
 but in terms of the Buddha wisdom
 this is no more than one drop of the ocean.
 I rain down the Dharma rain,
 filling the whole world,
 and this single-flavored Dharma
 is practiced by each according to the individual's power.
 It is like those thickets and groves,
 medicinal herbs and trees
 which, according to whether they are large or small,
 bit by bit grow lush and beautiful.
 The Law of the Buddhas
 is constantly of a single flavor,
 causing the many worlds
 to attain full satisfaction everywhere;
 by practicing gradually and stage by stage,
 all beings can gain the fruits of the way.³

NUMBER	I49
TITLE	Metta Sutra, "Loving-kindness"
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Buddhist
AUTHOR	sacred prayer
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Sutra, loving-kindness, peace, living beings, pure-hearted
SEASON	Any

This is what should be done
 By those who are skilled in goodness,
 And who know the path of peace:
 Let them be able and upright,
 Straightforward and gentle in speech,
 Humble and not conceited,
 Contented and easily satisfied,

Unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways,
 Peaceful and calm, wise and skillful,
 Not proud and demanding in nature.
 Let them not do the slightest thing
 That the wise would later reprove.
 Wishing: in gladness and in safety,
 May all beings be at ease.
 Whatever living beings there may be,
 Whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
 The great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
 The seen and the unseen,
 Those living near and far away,
 Those born to-be-born—
 May all beings be at ease!
 Let none deceive another,
 Or despise any being in any state.
 Let none through anger or ill-will
 Wish harm upon another.
 Even as a mother protects with her life
 Her child, her only child,
 So with a boundless heart
 Should one cherish all living beings,
 Radiating kindness over the entire world,
 Spreading upward to the skies,
 And downward to the depths,
 Outward and unbounded.
 Freed from hatred and ill-will,
 Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down,
 Free from drowsiness,
 One should sustain this recollection.
 This is said to be the sublime abiding.
 By not holding to fixed views,
 The pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision,
 Being freed from all sense desires,
 Is not born again into this world.

NUMBER	I50
TITLE	Latin American Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	hunger, justice, bread
SEASON	Any

“Lord, to those who hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice.”

NUMBER	I51
TITLE	A Prayer from Baha'U'Llah ("A Treasury of Baha'I Prayers")
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Baha'I
AUTHOR	sel. by Juliet Mabey, p. 60, Oxford, UK: One World, 1999):
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	eternity, sweet-scented streams, fragrant breezes, paradise, reality, providence
SEASON	Any

One: From the sweet-scented streams of Thine eternity, give me to drink, O my God.
All: Of the fruits of the tree of Thy being, enable me to taste, O my Hope.

One: Beneath the shadow of Thine everlasting providence, let me abide, O my Light.
All: Within the meadows of Thy nearness, before Thy presence, make me able to roam, O my Beloved.

One: From the fragrant breezes of Thy joy, let a breath pass over me, O my Goal.
All: And into the heights of the paradise of Thy reality, let me gain admission, O my Adored One.

NUMBER	I52
TITLE	A Hindu Hymn to the Earth
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Hindu
AUTHOR	(excerpts from " <i>Hymn to the Earth: The Prithvi Sukta</i> ," the 12 th Chapter of the <i>Artharva Veda</i> , tr. By Shrinivas S. Sohoni. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Ltd., 1991):
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Earth, agriculture, vegetation, nutrition, seas, rivers, water sources, human beings, harmony, prosperity, mountains, forests, happiness, Sun
SEASON	Any

One: May this Earth, whose surface undulates with many gradients, and sustains an abundant variety of herbs and plants of different potencies and qualities, support all human beings, in all their diversity of endowment, in mutually supportive harmony and prosperity.

All: May this Earth, replete with seas, rivers and water sources, excellent food grain from agriculture, prolific vegetation and abundant living creatures bestow upon us munificent nutrition.

One: Skillfully conserved by wise and alert persons, this Earth, which in

ancient times was submerged in water, and is bound with the highest spiritual force, may this Earth, infused with divine force and truth, confer upon us brilliance, strength and sovereignty.

All: May this Earth, bearing snowy mountains and deep forests, be kind to us and give us happiness.

One: May the Earth's supportive surface be fertile & arable, abundantly endowed with forests, and may this Earth with regular change of seasons, and with a stable base for life, provide a safe existence protected from untimely interventions.

All: May all mortal entities, bipeds & quadrupeds, and all communities of human beings, receive the spiritual stimulus of the ever-rising & inexhaustible Sun.

One: Boulders, rocks, stones, dust-particles, all these form the Earth's crust; the Earth is golden within. May the Earth support us.

NUMBER	I53
TITLE	Ojibwa Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American
AUTHOR	(Adapted from <i>American Indian Prayers and Poetry</i> , edited by J. Ed Sharpe [Cherokee, NC: Cherokee Publications, 1985], page 1)
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Great Spirit, beauty, sunsets, voice, shame, wisdom, strength
SEASON	Any

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to everyone,
Hear me.

I come to you a one of your many children;
I am weak... I am small...I need your wisdom and your strength.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, and make my ears sharp so that I may hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may understand what you have taught my people and the lessons you have hidden in each leaf and each rock.

I ask for wisdom and strength, not to be superior to my brothers and sisters,

But to fight the greatest enemy, myself.

Make me ever ready to come before you with
Clean hands

And a straight eye.

So as life fades away as a fading sunset,

My spirit may come to you without shame.

NUMBER	I54
TITLE	Navajo Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American
AUTHOR	Navajo Nation [only reference information available]
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	beauty, walk, trail
SEASON	Any

With beauty before me,
 May I walk.

With beauty behind me,
 May I walk.

With beauty above me,
 May I walk.

With beauty below me,
 May I walk.

With beauty around me,
 May I walk.

Wandering on a trail of beauty,
 Lively I walk.

NUMBER	I55
TITLE	“Earth Namer”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American
AUTHOR	N/A
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	Earth Namer, dirt, man, woman, creation, human, turtle, coyote, squirrel, rabbit, kangaroo
SEASON	Any

Earth Namer took some red-colored dirt. He mixed it with water. Very carefully, he shaped a man and a woman.

First Man and First Woman were very beautiful. But their hands were not finished. “How shall I make their hands?” asked Earth Namer.

“Make their hands like mine so they can swim,” said Turtle.

“Make their hands like mine so they can run fast,” said Coyote.

“Make their hands like mine so they can climb,” said Squirrel.

“Make their hands like mine so they can dig,” said Rabbit.

“Make their hands like mine so they can hop,” said Kangaroo.

Earth Namer thought and thought. “No they must have hands like mine so they too can do the things I do. They must have fingers so that they can make things,” said Earth Namer.

Earth Namer made the hands of First Man and First Woman to look like his own.

Then First Man and First Woman were even more beautiful and they did many things with their new gifts.

NUMBER	I56
TITLE	From an Iroquois prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American
AUTHOR	Traditional
YEAR	N/A
THEME	mother, earth, corn, beans, squashes
SEASON	Any

We return our thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us...We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and squashes, which give us life...

NUMBER	I57
TITLE	from a Sioux Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American
AUTHOR	Traditional
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	strength, Earth, walk, see, teach, understand
SEASON	Any

...Give us the strength to understand, and the eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.

NUMBER	I58
TITLE	“The Infinity of God”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Hindu
AUTHOR	Arjuna
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Infinity, creation, plants, birds, universe, love
SEASON	Any

I see you in all things, O my God. Infinity itself is your creation. And all around are the signs of your infinity: the bursting life of countless

plants; the unending song of innumerable birds; the tireless movement of animals and insects. Nowhere can I see a beginning or an end of your creation.

I see the infinite beauty which infuses the entire universe. You are the king of the universe, and its beauty is your crown and scepter. I bow down in homage and adoration.

You are immortal, imperishable, the summit of all knowledge, the power behind all movement. You designed all things, and set them in motion.

The sun is your eye during the day, and the moon your eye at night. The wind is your breath, and the fertile brown earth is your heart.

By your power all things are created, and by your power they are destroyed. Birth and death are in your hands. I tremble with awe and wonder when I contemplate your power.

As the waters of a river flow to the sea, the path determined by the line of the valley, so we pass through life to death, our destiny mapped out by your will.

Lord, reveal yourself to me. Show me that love, not hatred, inspires your creation. Show me that mercy, not anger guides my life. I do not ask to understand the mystery of your works; I want only to be assured of your goodness.

NUMBER	I59
TITLE	For Rain
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Dinka people- major Nilotic people of southern Sudan.
AUTHOR	Unknown
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	grass, rain, earth, crops, children
SEASON	Any

Give life to the grass
By sending us rain.
Give life to our earth
By sending us rain.

Give life to our crops
By sending us rain.
Give life to our children
By sending us rain.

NUMBER	I60
TITLE	Come to This Dusty World
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Mahayana Buddhism
AUTHOR	Unknown
YEAR	(tbd)

THEME Supreme One, evil, mystery, creation, light, peace
 SEASON Any

Supreme One, you are an obscure mystery to us. You made all things and can purify all things. You are far beyond our understanding. Even to speak to you is to enter an unknown region. Yet your light shines on all creatures, and your wonder illumines their souls. We beg you to leave your bright celestial palace in heaven, and come to this dusty world. Reveal yourself to us. Use your power to extinguish all evil and banish all sickness. Give peace to troubled soul. Reconcile those who are enemies, turning them into friends. Show us how we should live, that we may learn to obey you in all things.

NUMBER I61
 TITLE On a Voyage
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Native American (Sioux)
 AUTHOR N/A
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME mountains, valleys, creature, trees, vines, children, sun, beauty, guidance
 SEASON Any

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and the valleys. As I travel over mountains and through valleys, I am beneath your feet. You surround me with every kind of creature. Peacocks, pheasants, and wild boars cross my path. Open my eyes to see their beauty, that I may perceive them as the work of your hands.

In your power, in your thought, all things are abundant.
 Tonight I will sleep beneath your feet, O Lord of the mountains and valleys, ruler of the trees and vines. I will rest in your love, with you protecting me as a father protects his children, with you watching over me as a mother watches over her children. Then tomorrow the sun will rise and I will not know where I am; but I know that you will guide my footsteps.

NUMBER I62
 TITLE At Harvest Time
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Native American [Sioux]
 AUTHOR Unknown
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME mountains, valleys, corn, sunshine, harvest, crop
 SEASON Fall [Harvest]

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and valleys. You are my mother and my father. You have given rain to make the corn grow, and sunshine to ripen it. Now in your strength the harvest begins.

I offer you the first morsels of the harvest. I know it is almost nothing compared with the abundance of the crop. But since you have provided the harvest, my gift to you is only a sign of what you have given to me.

You alone know how many suns and moons it will take no finish reaping. You alone know how heavy the crop will be. If I work too hard and too fast I forget about you, who gave me the harvest. So I will work steadily and slowly, remembering that each ear of corn is a priceless gift from you.

NUMBER	I63
TITLE	To the Breath of Life
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Hindu
AUTHOR	Ahtarva Veda
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Breath of Life, earth, thunder, lightning, cattle, homage, praise, love, friendship, birth, death, cycle of life
SEASON	Any

Homage to you, Breath of Life, for the whole universe obeys you. You are the rule of all things on earth, and the foundation of the earth itself.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the crashes of thunder, and in the flashes of lightning. The rain you send gives food to the plants and drink to the animals.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the changing seasons, in the hot dry sunshine and the cold rain. There is comfort and beauty in every kind of weather.

The plants themselves rejoice in your bounty, praising you in the sweet smell of their blossom. The cattle rejoice, praising you in the pure white milk they give.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in our breathing out and breathing in. At every moment, whatever we are doing, we owe you praise and thanksgiving.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in our birth and in our death. In the whole cycle of life you sustain and inspire us.

Homage to you, Breath of Life, in the love and friendship we enjoy. When we love one another, we reflect your infinite love.

Men and women rejoice in your bounty, praising you in poem and song. The little children rejoice, praising you in their innocent shrieks of laughter.

NUMBER	I64
TITLE	(No Title)
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith

AUTHOR	Kahlil Gibran
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	light, earth, forest, beast, tree of heaven, heart, breath, seasons
SEASON	Any

“Would that you could live on the fragrance of the earth, and like an air plant be sustained by the light.
 But since you must kill to eat, and rob the newly born of its mother’s milk to quench your thirst, let it then be an act of worship.
 And let your board stand an altar on which the pure and the innocent of forest and plain are sacrificed for that which is purer and still more innocent in man.
 When you kill a beast say to him in your heart,
 “By the same power that slays you, I too am slain; and I too shall be consumed.
 For the law that delivered you into my hand shall deliver me into a mightier hand.
 Your blood and my blood is naught but the sap that feeds the tree of heaven.”
 And when you crush an apple with your teeth, say to it in your heart,
 “Your seeds shall live in my body,
 And the buds of your tomorrow shall blossom in my heart,
 And your fragrance shall be my breath,
 And together we shall rejoice through all the seasons.”

NUMBER	I65
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	[Buddhist]
AUTHOR	Basho
YEAR	n/a
THEME	bell, flowers
SEASON	Any

The temple bell
 Stops ringing
 But the sound keeps
 Coming
 Out of the flowers

NUMBER	I66
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Hindu
AUTHOR	The Vedas, translated by Raimundo Panniker
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	peace, Shanti, waters, herbs
SEASON	Any

May there be peace in the higher regions; may there be peace in the firmament; may there be peace on earth. May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. The supreme

Lord is peace. May we all be in peace, peace, and only peace; and may that peace come unto each of us. Shanti (Peace)- Shanti- Shantil

NUMBER	I67
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	Khalil Gibran
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	peace, Life, Awakening, Revelation, Day, light, Night, heaven, Seasons, nature
SEASON	Any

Peace with you, Life!

Peace be with you, Awakening!

Peace be with you, Revelation!

Peace be with you, oh Day, who
Engulfs the darkness of the earth
With thy brilliant light!

Peace be with you, oh Night,
Through whose darkness the lights
Of heaven sparkle!

Peace be with you, Seasons of the Year!
Peace be with you, Spring, who
Restores the earth to youth!
Peace be with you, Summer, who
Heralds the glory of the sun!
Peace be with you, Autumn, who
Gives with joy the fruits of
Labour and the harvest of toil!
Peace be with you, Winter, whose
Rage and tempest restore to
Nature her sleeping strength!

NUMBER	I68
TITLE	Blessing of Food
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Interfaith
AUTHOR	adapted from Thich Nhat Hanh
YEAR	(tbd)

THEME food, universe, earth, value of life, Thich Nhat Hanh
 SEASON Any

May the food we are eating make us aware of the interconnections between the universe and us, the earth and us, and all other living species and us. Because each bite contains in itself the life of the us and the earth, may we see the meaning and value of life from these precious morsels of food.

NUMBER I69
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Yoruba [?]
 AUTHOR Yoruba odu (recital), translated by E.B.Idowu'
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME world, judgment, wealth, future
 SEASON Any

Let us not run the world hastily,
 Let us not grasp at the rope of wealth impatiently;
 What should be treated with mature judgment,
 Let us not treat in a fit of temper;
 Whenever we arrive at a cool place,
 Let us rest sufficiently well;
 Let us give prolonged attention to the future,
 And then let us give due regard to the consequence of things,
 And that is on account of our sleeping.

NUMBER I70
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Native American
 AUTHOR N/A
 YEAR N/A
 THEME Wiyopeyata ouye, Wakinyan, sun, thunder, west, wichoni,
 rain
 SEASON Any

Ho. Wiyopeyata ouye, power of the setting sun. We call on you. Have pity on us that the people may live.

Wakinyan, thunder beings of the black west, we call on you. You are the source of both the power to live and of destruction, who ride the back of mine wichoni, the life-giving rains.

NUMBER I71
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Native American

AUTHOR Ed McGaa, Eagle Man
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME Wakan Tanka, six powers, Way, Ina Maka, Mother, winged, grandfather, rock, tree people, star brothers, earth
 SEASON Any

For long years, the way of the people has been weak and there has been fear. Many have said that the red road would disappear and that the six powers and Wakan Tanka would turn their faces from us.

It is true that many of the old ways have been lost. But just as the life-giving rains restore the earth after the drought, so your power will restore the Way and give it new life.

We ask this not only for the red people but for all the people that they might live. In ignorance and carelessness they have walked upon Ina Maka, our Mother. They did not understand that they are part of all beings, the four-legged, the winged, grandfather rock, the tree people, and our star brothers. Now the earth and all our relations are crying out. They cry for the help of all people.

NUMBER I72
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Interfaith- Southern Bushmen
 AUTHOR Traditional
 YEAR (tbd)
 THEME wind, footprints, dust
 SEASON Any

The day we die the wind comes down to take away our footprints.
 The wind makes dust to cover up the marks we left while walking.
 For otherwise the thing would seem as if we were still living.
 Therefore the wind is he who comes to blow away our footprints.

NUMBER I73
 TITLE Prayer
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer
 TRADITION Native American [Sioux]
 AUTHOR Traditional
 YEAR N/A
 THEME Father, Sky, Mother Earth, Spirit of the East, Spirit of the South, Spirit of the West, Spirit of the North, life, journey, wind, Wisdom
 SEASON Any

Our Father, the Sky, hear us and make us strong.
 O Our Mother the Earth, hear us and give us support.
 O Spirit of the East, send us your Wisdom.

O Spirit of the South, may we tread your path of life.
 O Spirit of the West, may we always be ready for the long journey.
 O Spirit of the North, purify us with your cleansing winds.

NUMBER	I74
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Buddhist
AUTHOR	Thich Nhat Hanh
YEAR	(tbd)
THEME	sound, tide, sky, clouds, joy, lotus ponds, coconut trees, rice fields, Mother Earth, coriander, basilicum, celery, hills, mountains, family, human
SEASON	Any

My ear is hearing the sound of the rising tide on the magnificent sky.
 I see clouds approaching with joy from many directions.
 I can see the fragrant lotus ponds of my homeland;
 I can see coconut trees along the rivers;
 I can see rice fields stretch their shoulders laughing at the sun and the rain.
 Mother Earth gives me coriander, basilicum, and celery.
 Tomorrow, the hills and mountains of the country will be green again.
 Tomorrow, the buds of life will grown quickly; the folk poetry will be as sweet as
 the songs of the children.
 The whole family of humans will sing together with me in my work.

NUMBER	I75
TITLE	Prayer
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Native American [Omaha]
AUTHOR	Traditional
YEAR	N/A
THEME	life, hills, path
SEASON	Any

Prayer

Ho! Sun, Moon, Stars, all that move in the heavens,
 I bid you hear me!
 Into your midst has come a new life! Consent ye, I implore!
 Make smooth its path that it may reach the brow of the first hill!

Ho! Winds, Clouds, Rain, Mist, all yet that move in the air,
 I bid you hear me!
 Into your midst has come a new life! Consent ye, I implore!
 Make smooth its path that it may reach the brow of the second hill!

Ho! Hills, Valleys, Rivers, Lakes, Trees, Grasses, all ye of the earth,
I bid you hear me!
Into your midst has come anew life! Consent ye, I implore!
Make smooth its path that it may reach the brow of the third hill!

Ho! Birds great and small that fly in the air,
Ho! Animals great and small that dwell in the forest,
Ho! Insects that creep among the grasses and burrow in the ground-
I bid you hear me!
Into your midst has come a new life! Consent ye, I implore!
Make its path smooth that it may reach the brow of the fourth hill!

Ho! All ye of the heavens, all ye of the air, all ye of the earth:
I bid you all hear me!
Into your midst has come a new life! Consent ye, consent ye all, I implore!
Make its path smooth- then shall it travel beyond the four hills!