Prayer – Our Relationship with Earth
May, 2015

**As we gather together** to accept our call to fashion a future full of hope, we pause to align ourselves with ever present HOLY WISDOM who, “roaming from one end of the Earth to other, seeks to order all things for good.” *(Wisdom 7:26)*  **Pause**

We remind ourselves of our place in time and our connectedness with those who have gone before us, and those who will come after us, as well as those living now**.**

**Invocations and candle lighting** on behalf of the past, present and future:
 (Adapted from Joanna Macy)

1. Be with us now all you have gone before, you our ancestors and teachers who have faithfully tended this Earth. Be present to us that we may carry on the legacy you bequeathed to us. Silently in our hearts we say your names and see your faces…..
(Light candle)
2. All you with whom we live and work on this endangered planet…humans and sisters and brothers of other species, help us open to our collective wisdom for the sake of all. Silently in our hearts we say your names and see your faces. (Light Candle)
3. All you who will come after us on this Earth be with us now…all you who are awaiting to be born in the ages to come, it is for your sakes took that we work to heal our world. We cannot picture your faces or say your names, but we feel the reality of your claim on life. (Light Candle)

**Listen: Sacred Trust**

The protection of Earth’s beauty,

Vitality and diversity is a sacred trust.

 *(Carolyn McDade & Friends: My Heart is Moved – A Musical Rendition of The Earth Charter)*

**Reading:**

“We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it. We are coming of age on a finite planet and only just now recognizing that it is finite. How we make a transition to a stabilized and still prosperous relationship with Earth and each other is the story of our time.” Our faith traditions and sacred texts call upon us all to consider the spiritual dimension of the crisis of climate change, to exercise leadership in putting the long-term interest of humanity and the planet—the common good-- ahead of the short term concerns-- for God, in whom “we live and move and have our being,” has given us the gift of this beautiful Earth. As the poet Wendell Berry reminds us, “ Love, incarnate and indwelling in the world, summons the world always toward wholeness. “ As the Gospel of John reminds us: “God loves the world.” Each of us asks ourselves, “Do I? Do we?\*

**Silent Reflection**

**A Litany of Life**



**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 all creatures; we have strength through their gifts.

**Response: We rejoice in all life.**

**Leader:** We depend on the forests and rivers; we have knowledge through their secrets.

**Response: We rejoice in all life.**

**Leader:** We have the privilege of seeing and understanding; we have responsibility of caring and protecting; we have the joy of celebrating.

**Response: We are full of the grace of creation. We are grateful; we rejoice in all life.**

 **Amen, Amen.**