

Poems:

1.

Chief Seattle

*"How can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us.
If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?
Every part of the earth is sacred to my people... If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us that the air shares its spirit with all the life that it supports. ...
Teach your children what we have taught our children--that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.
This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.
This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family.
All things are connected.
Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves..."*

2.

Pablo Neruda

KEEPING QUIET

*Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.*

*It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.*

*Fisherman in the cold sea would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt would not look at his hurt hands.*

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

*What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about....*

*If we were not so single minded about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.*

*Perhaps the earth can teach us,
as when everything seems dead in winter and later proves to be alive.*

*Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go*

3.

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 downy feathers freshly dried on newly hatched ducklings
and chicks.
Be praised by the song of birds, crickets, and frogs.
Be praised, my God, by all you creation which tells of new life.

Mary Goergen, O.S.F.

4.

I am in awe of the bounty that God provides
That God provides through the miraculous environment in which I live:
The sun warms me, the oxygen-filled air that renews me,
The water that cleanses and refreshes me,
And the rich soil that bears an abundance of food that nourishes me.

I express my appreciation with a commitment
To God to use only what I need and to “walk lightly”, leaving as little
Impact on the environment that I can.

I apply this same pledge to my interactions with friends, coworkers, family
Members, and all creation. I walk lightly through each day—in spirit
Of gentleness toward everyone and everything with whom I share this planet.

*I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and
every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. (Genesis 1:29)*

Daily Word Prayers

5.

Environment

August 2, 1999 Monday

I do my part in being a caretaker of planet Earth.

When I look at the sky, hear the birds singing in the trees, or feel the heat of the sun on my face, I am reminded that planet Earth is a wonderful gift that God has given all. I am also reminded that I have an important responsibility as a caretaker of life on Earth.

I am thankful that plants take carbon dioxide from the air and give back life-sustaining oxygen. Lakes and rivers through-out the earth provide the water needed for survival and recreation. Refreshing rains replenish life in deserts, valleys, and plains.

As a caretaker, I act in responsible, caring ways toward the environment. I do my part to ensure that the fruits of the earth continue to flourish, the air remains pure, and the water supplies flow clean.

"When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."-Genesis 9:16.

Environment

6.

January 29, 2001 Monday

I do my part in keeping the environment healthy and whole.*

God created a beautiful wondrous world, a home hat is shared by a diverse multitude of life.

I am only one in that multitude, but I accept the responsibility of doing my part in keeping the environment healthy and whole. I follow a plan of being a friend to the environment, recycling what I can and leaving parks and other public areas even

cleaner than I found them.

I also remember to bless the environment in my prayers of thanksgiving. I am thankful for fresh air and clean water. I am thankful for rich soil that produces bountiful harvests. I am thankful for plants that produce oxygen and for rivers and streams that carry water everywhere.

Yes, I am thankful for a healthy, thriving environment!

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."-Genesis 1:31

Blessing God's Creatures

December 6, 2003 Saturday

7.

I bless all creatures as expressions of God's life, order; and beauty on Earth.

Not only in the forests, deserts, tundras, and jungles, but also in the midst of the busiest metropolitan areas, I will find birds, animals, insects, reptiles, and perhaps even fish thriving. As I walk through a park or through a parking lot, I see that all creatures exist in an intricate web of diverse life.

All God's creatures are reminders of the miraculous life, order, and beauty that permeate my surroundings. Whether they display colorful feathers, thick fur, or iridescent scales, they have a uniqueness and purpose to express on planet Earth.

I send a blessing to all pets, to the wild creatures common to my area, and to the exotic species of other lands that I may never encounter. I bless all God's creatures for the way they participate so gracefully in the intricate and intertwined order of life.

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." --Genesis 1:31

8.

Walk Lightly

July 14, 2002 Sunday

I walk lightly through each day in a spirit of gentleness.

I am in awe of the bounty that God provides through the miraculous environment in which I live: the sun that warms me, the oxygen-filled air that renews me, the water that cleanses and refreshes me, and the rich soil that bears an abundance of food that nourishes me.

I express my appreciation with a commitment to God to use only what I need and to "walk lightly," leaving as little impact on the environment as I can.

I apply this same pledge to my interactions with friends, coworkers, family members, and all creation. I walk lightly through each day--in a spirit of gentleness toward everyone and everything with whom I share this planet.

"I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food."- Genesis 1:29

Unity Earth Care Northwest excerpts from Daily Word magazine May 2004 rev 01/07

Earth Care Activities

9.

Blessing for Earth

January 11, 2003 Saturday

Today and every day, I treat Earth well and bless it in prayer.

An American Indian proverb reminds us to treat the Earth well because it is on loan to us from our children. The actions I take today will in some way affect the Earth and the future generations that will inhabit it, so I remain mindful of how I am treating the planet that is my home and sanctuary. And I bless the Earth in my prayers:

"God, thank You for Earth. With each step I take on its land and every stroke I swim in its waters, I treat my home well. With each breeze that caresses my face, I am reminded of the glory of this natural habitat.

"I pray that all inhabitants will be respectful of Earth and treat it well, making right decisions that will bless generations for years to come."

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void. . . . Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."- Genesis 1:1-3

10.

Environment

April 28, 2003 Monday

One with all God's creation, I am a caretaker of the environment.

God is the Creator of all life and of the environment that sustains and nourishes life. Being a creation within that greater whole that God has created, I care about and for the environment.

I make a dedicated effort to recognize and

revere the presence of God within all life and all elements of the environment. Because I have made this connection, I feel a sense of completeness. I am one with and a caretaker for all God's creation.

God is the very essence of all that surrounds me and fills me. God-life is in the air that I breathe, in the ground that I walk on, and in the rain that falls to nourish plant life. When I am truly aware of being one with God, I experience the joy and wonder of knowing my oneness with all creation.

"Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." - Joshua 24: 15

11.
All God's Creation

November 30, 2001 Friday

I give thanks that I share a sacred bond. with all that God has created.

Each creation of God is unique and glorious in its own special way.

As one of God's creations, I am unique, but I share a oneness with all that God has created--a sacred bond of life that transcends any physical differences among us.

I don't look the same as the eagle that soars high above the earth, but I know how it feels to be free of all tethers. My soul is free to soar because God has lifted all burdens from me.

The trees that I see and touch may not talk to me in an audible voice, but I learn from them about the importance of being flexible and yielding to winds of change. I am flexible--yielding to the greater wisdom of God.

I thank God that I do share a oneness of being--a sacred bond--with all creation.

"Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating."-Isaiah 65:18

**12.
My World**

October 30, 1999 Saturday

I embrace each new day and the wonder that God has created.

There is something I can do for myself that will awaken within me a sense of beauty and life: I look at everything around me with all the attention and appreciation I would in discovering it for the very first time.

This is how I can relive the wide-eyed wonder of my childhood--eagerly exploring new places, trying to find out exactly how things work, and greeting each day with joyful enthusiasm.

The glory of God fills my days. As I live life to the fullest in every moment, I gratefully embrace the joy that each new moment, each new day brings.

What may have seemed ordinary yesterday comes alive when I consider the divine artistry that was responsible for creating it. My world is filled with the glory of God, and I view it with wonder and appreciation.

"Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" -2 Corinthians 5:17

Unity Earth Care Northwest excerpts from Daily Word magazine May 2004 rev 01/07

13.

SEASONAL EARTH CARE PRAYER*Be a gardener.**Dig a ditch,
toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.**Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run
and noble and abundant fruits to spring.**Take this food and drink
and carry it to God
as your true worship.*

--Julian of Norwich

14.

THE POWER OF ONE**(From “Awakening the Dreamer” Symposium)****It’s 3:23 in the morning and I’m awake because my great-great grandchildren won’t let me sleep.****My great-great grandchildren ask me in dreams****“What did you do while the planet was plundered?****What did you do when the Earth was unraveling?****Surely you did something when the seasons started failing,****As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying.****Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?**

What did you do once you knew?"

Drew Dellinger

So now we know. We know that our current worldview, and the industrial system it gave rise to, have run up against the limits of a finite planet.

We know that the vitality of the Earth is declining every day. That the chasm between the few of us who have more than we need and the many of us who have not nearly enough gets wider every day. And we know that it is hurting all of us inside.

At the same time, we know that we are part of a worldwide awakening – a grassroots movement for change that is unprecedented in human history. So now we know, the question arises: “What part do YOU play in this great unfolding story?”

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

Not so long ago, a little girl in Alabama wanted to go to the same school as everyone else.

And a gentle man from India wanted to raise consciousness without raising his voice.

In East Germany, a man wanted to break free.

And a woman traveled the world giving hope to those who had none.

This is the power of one:

- To protect your home in the Amazon.
- To prevent poaching of the African mountain gorilla.
- To rescue harp seals in Finland.
- Or to care for the environment in your own back yard.
- The power of one is the power to do something. Anything.

Thomas Berry

"If the dynamics of the universe from the beginning shaped the course of the heavens, lighted the sun, and formed the earth, if this same dynamism brought forth the continents and seas and atmosphere, if it awakened life in the primordial cell and then brought into being the unnumbered variety of living beings, and finally brought us into being and guided us safely through the turbulent centuries, there is reason to believe that this same guiding process is precisely what has awakened in us our present understanding of ourselves and our relationship to this stupendous process. Sensitized to such guidance form the very structure and functioning of the universe, we can have confidence in the future that awaits the human venture."

Jerry Mander

In *The Dream of the Earth*, Thomas Berry describes the entire industrial age as a "period of technological entrancement, an altered state of consciousness, a mental fixation that alone can explain how we came to ruin our air and water and soil and to severely damage all our basic life systems." Berry goes on: "During this period the human mind has been placed within the narrowest confines it has experienced since consciousness emerged from the Paleolithic phase. Even the most primitive tribes have a larger vision of the universe, of our place and functioning within it, a vision that extends to celestial regions of space and to interior depths of the human in a manner far exceeding the parameters of our world of technological confinement."

Because our vision became so confined, says Berry, we got caught in what he calls "species isolation" that led to "a savage assault upon the Earth such as was inconceivable in prior times. The experience of a sacred communion with the Earth disappeared... Such intimacy [with the planet] was considered a poetic conceit by a people who prided themselves on their realism, their aversion to all forms of myth, magic, mysticism, and superstition. Little did these people know that their very realism was as pure a superstition as was ever professed by humans, their devotion to science a new mysticism, their technology a magical way to Paradise."

Berry believes that our society does not grasp the nature of our fixation. "That is what needs to be explained," he says, "our entrancement with an industrially driven society. Until we have explained this situation to ourselves, we will never break the spell that has seized us. We will continue to be subject to this fatal attraction."

More Quotes

You can no longer save your family, tribe or nation. You can only save the whole world.
Margaret Mead

If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that

courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream...

Martin Luther King, Jr.

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aid, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn. ***Henry David Thoreau***

Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good. ***V. Havel***

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing. ***George Bernard Shaw***

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. ***Annie Dillard***

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. ***Albert Einstein***

Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal: my strength lies solely in my tenacity.

Louis Pasteur

With public sentiment nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed. Consequently he who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions.

Abraham Lincoln

Prayer without action is no prayer at all. You have to work as if everything depended on you—and leave the rest to God. ***Mother Teresa***

One cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied in doing wrong in any other department of life. Life is one indivisible whole. ***Mahatma Gandhi***

When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murders and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fail. Think of it: always. ***Mahatma Gandhi***

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will; William James The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes. ***Mahatma Gandhi***

To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must cultivate our personal life; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right. ***Confucius***

Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace; a soul generated by love. ***Martin Luther King, Jr***

Never doubt that a small band of committed people can change the world. Indeed, nothing else ever has. **Margaret Mead**

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive. **Harold Thurman Whitman**

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goal ever recedes from us. Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory.... You must not worry whether the desired result follows your action or not, so long as your motive is pure, your means correct.... Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. **Mahatma Gandhi**

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no brief candle to me; it is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.
George Bernard Shaw

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