

# References

## Opening Prayer

## Scripture/Reading/Quote/Story

## Closing Prayer

### BAHA'I

"Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God has been made, and God's praise glorified."

*Baha 'U'lla'h*

O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful.

*'Abdu'l-Bahá*

"Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone, let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path."

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks*

### BUDDHISM

Prayer of Lovingkindness  
May all beings be peaceful.  
May all beings be happy.  
May all beings be safe.  
May all beings awaken to the light of their true nature.  
May all beings be free.

*Metta Prayer*

"However innumerable beings are, I vow to save them."

*One of the Four Vows of the Bodhisattva, taken from Agape Love: A Tradition Found in Eight World Religions by Sir John Templeton, 1999, Templeton Press.*

Prayer of Lovingkindness  
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*Metta Prayer*

### CHRISTIANITY

Prayer to the Lord of Creation  
Come Lord Christ, king of the earth,  
lead us as we walk with you  
that the earth may be healed.  
Come, Holy Spirit hovering over the water  
and guide us as we sail to you,  
that the waters may flow with life.  
Come, you angels of the fire and light  
and show us how to dance with you,  
that in the light may be born  
the flame of love.  
Come, you breath of the air,  
and inspire us with the breath of you,  
that the air may reverberate with  
the sound of the word.  
Come, Lady Mary and the saints of heaven  
and help us to pray with you,  
that the earth may be redeemed  
through  
the love of Christ.

*By Brendanus Scotus, found in Lord of Creation*

Creation has its own relationship with God, in some measure independently of humankind and beyond human understanding: it glorifies and worships God in continuous praise.

*Psalms 96:12; Isaiah 55:12.*

"God declares the creation good. We are among God's creatures, and humbled that God calls on us to till and keep the earth. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way."

*From Creation Justice Ministry's Earth Day 2016 Resource, Care for God's Creatures.*

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### CATHOLICISM

Dear God, thank you for this beautiful planet. Bless it and keep it safe from harm. We pray for the protection of the animals, the soil, air and water. May we care for all you have made. Help us to love the Earth as you do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."

*His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI*

"Creator God, We thank you for all your gifts. Thank you for the sky and clouds, for waterways and deserts, For mountains and valleys, For the moon and the stars. Thank you for the gift of the Earth. We make this prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

*Prayers and scripture reading from the 2017 Catholic Climate Covenant's Earth Day Guide that were adapted from Prayers for Creation: An Ecoschools Resource, compiled by the Committee for Social Justice and the Office of Religious & Family Life Education, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, 2008*

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

As beneficiaries of this divine creation, we should care for the earth, be wise stewards over it, and preserve it for future generations. The earth and all things on it are part of God's plan for the redemption of His children and should be used responsibly to sustain the human family (see 1 Nephi 17:36; Moses 1:39; Abraham 3:24-25).

[https://www.lds.org/topics/environmental-stewardship-and-conservation?lang=eng#\\_](https://www.lds.org/topics/environmental-stewardship-and-conservation?lang=eng#_)

"I believe in beauty. The earth in its pristine beauty is an expression of the nature of its Creator.... I believe in the beauty of nature—the flowers, the fruit, the sky, the peaks and the plains from which they rise. I see and believe in the beauty of animals.... I believe in beauty—the beauty of God's unspoiled creations, the beauty of his sons and daughters who walk without whimpering, meeting the challenges of each new day."

*The Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, 248, 249.*

"If we are respectful of the planet, the creation, if we have a humble and a meek attitude toward the creations of our Heavenly Father, each of us in some way can indeed make a difference. That may mean doing something as simple as turning off a water tap that's running, or cleaning our home and property so it's pleasant and beautiful, or being careful in how we use energy so we don't waste resources. It may mean treating domestic animals with kindness and compassion, or doing what we can to pick up litter and clean up local areas. I think the issue is not what we do; it's that we do something, and that we do it with an attitude of praise."

*Paul Cox*

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Christians are called by God to exercise caring stewardship and dominion over the earth and environment (Genesis 1:28)

In May, 2010, a mother wrote into the Christian Post's guest columnist, Rev. Billy Graham with a concern that her daughter felt called by God to take care of animals by volunteering at a local animal shelter. Rev. Graham responded by saying this, "...let me assure you that God is concerned about our care of every part of His creation - including the animals. After all, He made them, and ultimately they belong to Him. The Bible says, ""For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills"" (Psalm 50:10). And what your daughter is doing is a good thing in God's eyes, for He is concerned about the way we treat animals (especially those that depend on us). The Bible says, ""A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal"" (Proverbs 12:10). On the day God made the animals, the Bible tells us that He pronounced it good (see Genesis 1:25). Should we ignore or treat cruelly something that God calls good? Of course not. Someone who is thoughtless or cruel to animals is also likely to be thoughtless or cruel to other people - who are made in God's image."

"Let us be a consoling, understanding, loving, and forgiving people toward all of God's creation."

*Creation Justice Ministry, Care for God's Creatures resource*

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Let us pray. O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty. Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. For the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

<https://earthministry.org/worship/prayers/>

"All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the field or in the fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to Him."

*Leviticus 27:30*

"Let us be a consoling, understanding, loving, and forgiving people toward all of God's creation."

*Creation Justice Ministry, Care for God's Creatures resource*

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

"The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy. Psalm 65:12-13"

"We live within the covenant God makes with all living things, and are in relationship with them...We must listen to the people who fish the sea, harvest the forest, till the soil, and mine the earth, as well as to those who advance the conservation, protection, and preservation of the environment..."

*From The Evangelical Lutherans website*

"Let us be a consoling, understanding, loving, and forgiving people toward all of God's creation."

*Creation Justice Ministry, Care for God's Creatures resource*

Opening Prayer

Scripture/Reading/Quote/Story

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

“O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”

*NRS Psalm 104:24*

Job 12:7 “But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.”

“May God bless the animals of the earth and sea and air with security of habitat, plentiful food and clean water. May God bless creatures that are endangered with our concern and protection. May God bless our efforts to ensure that no creature is exploited or forgotten.”

*Creation Justice Ministry, Care for God’s Creatures resource*

QUAKER

Earth Prayer (Janet Soderberg)  
“Divine Creator, Spirit in All Things, Your kingdom is Here, and Now. Your creativity is manifest everywhere I look on this heavenly Earth. Nourish us Body and Soul in this earthly Paradise. Forgive us for not noticing, for overlooking, the tiny, the subtle, The seemingly insignificant beauty in your Creation. And teach us how to forgive those who would harm your Great Works. Make our Loving attention constant. Deliver us from Ingratitude. For You are our perfect Guide through the Delights of our sacred Home.”

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

*Matthew 5:14-16*

“Dear Mother/Father God: Thank you for this greening Earth, for the creatures large and small. Thank you for the delicate and intricate systems that sustain us. Help us, Dear Lord, to live in harmony with Creation, honoring our covenant to you to live in balance and beauty. Help us to harmonize our longings with our needs as we encourage others to do the same. Guide us in wisdom so that we may educate as well as challenge those who are harming your design. Continue to show us your presence in all created things, in the sun and the moon, in the soil and in the air, in the unfurling leaf and in the wood drake’s nest. We ask this in the name of our Lord, amen.”

*quakercare.org*

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth’s bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.”

*Rev. Ken Carter, pastor of Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina*

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. Therefore, we repent of our devastation of the physical and non-human world. Further, we recognize the responsibility of the Church toward lifestyle and systemic changes in society that will promote a more ecologically just world and a better quality of life for all creation.”

*UMC Social Principle, “The Natural World”*

May God bless the animals of the earth and sea and air with security of habitat, plentiful food and clean water. May God bless creatures that are endangered with our concern and protection. May God bless our efforts to ensure that no creature is exploited or forgotten.

*Creation Justice Ministry, Care for God’s Creatures resource*



## HINDUISM

Prayer from the Atharva Veda, one of Hinduism's most sacred texts.

"Supreme Lord, let there be peace in the sky and in the atmosphere. Let there be peace in the plant world and in the forests. Let the cosmic powers be peaceful. Let the Brahman, the true essence and source of life, be peaceful. Let there be undiluted and fulfilling peace everywhere"

<http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=116>

"Every living creature is the son of the supreme Lord, and He does not tolerate even ants being killed"

*Bhakitvedanta Swāmī Prabhupada A.C. Purport, Bhagavad Gita As It Is 14.16*  
<http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=116>

"Nature's beauty is an art of God. Let us feel the touch of God's invisible hands in everything beautiful. By the first touch of His hand rivers throb and ripple. When He smiles the sun shines, the moon glimmers, the stars twinkle, the flowers bloom. By the first rays of the rising sun, the universe is stirred; the shining gold is sprinkled on the smiling buds of rose; the fragrant air is filled with sweet melodies of singing birds, the dawn is the dream of God's creative fancy."

*Rig Veda 1.6.3*

## ISLAM

"Do not cut down a tree,  
Do not abuse a river,  
Do not harm animals,  
And be always kind and humane to God's creation, even to your enemies."

*Abu-Baker*  
<https://uri.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Multi-Faith%20Prayers%20on%20Environment%20RFP.pdf>

He has lifted the sky. He has set the balance in order for you not to exceed it - weigh with justice - and not to fall short in it (Qur'an, 55:7-9)

All the creatures that crawl on the earth and those that fly with their wings are communities like yourselves. (Qur'an, 6:38)

## JAINISM

One who disregards the existence of earth, air, fire, water, and vegetation disregards his or her own existence which is entwined with them.

*Mahavir*  
<https://uri.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Multi-Faith%20Prayers%20on%20Environment%20RFP.pdf>

"Lord Mahavira preached about the environment in the first book of 'Acharanga Sutra', which is accepted, as His direct words. The elements of nature were described as living beings and under the fundamental principle of AHIMSA these were to be protected in all ways - no waste, no overuse, no abuse, no polluting. If we follow these principles, then we would stop destroying our environment as well as preserve the resources that are available for all to share. If there are more resources available for all, then the poor will also get a fair share thereof."

*Quotation from R. P. Chandaria, Chairman of the Institute of Jainology, 15 August 2008.*  
<http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=167>

May the entire universe be blessed;  
May all beings engage in each other's well being.  
May all weakness, sickness and faults diminish;  
May everyone everywhere be healthy, peaceful and happy in all respects.

*From the JAINA Education Committee's resource JAINISM Religion of Compassion and Ecology*

## JUDAISM

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you; Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In the Lord’s hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all humankind.”

*Job 12:7-10*

Our scripture reading today is from Jeremiah 9: 10-14.  
10 “I will take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid waste so that no one passes through, and the lowing of cattle is not heard; both the birds of the air and the beasts have fled and are gone...

11 Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? 13 And the LORD says: “Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it, 14 but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them.”

All that we see-The heaven, the earth, and all that fills it-All these things are the external garment of God.

*Rebbe Shneur Zalman, Tanya 42*

## PAGANISM

Mother of Plenty,  
Bless this Bread  
Father of the Grain, Lend Your Seed  
Let it nourish Heart and Head  
Let it nourish Thought and Deed  
Let its breaking be a Spell  
That hungry mouths be fed as well  
And let its eating keep Us Free  
As is our Will  
Blessed Be!

*Wiccan prayer*

<https://www.greenhearted.org/prayers-for-the-earth.html>

From the Mother I was born, and to the Mother I will return.  
I walk the Elder Ways, a Child of Earth.  
With each step the Earth Mother blesses me.  
With sacred soil beneath me, sweet waters around me, and caressing air above me. As my forebears before me, as those who come after me, so may I stand before the Mother today and give her honor.  
Hail to Nerthus, goddess of old, matron of the the living land.

*Jeremy Baer*

Giver of life, great Mother Earth,  
To each of the Kindred you gave birth,  
Lady of river, grain, milk and sea,  
Source of the land’s fertility,  
We thank you for all the gifts that you give,  
This beautiful world, on which we live.

*Rev. Kathleen Pezza*

## SIKHISM

You, Yourself created the Universe, and You are pleased...You, Yourself the bumblebee, flower, fruit and the tree.

You, Yourself the water, desert, ocean and the pond. You, Yourself are the big fish, tortoise and the Cause of causes.

*GURU GRANTH SAHIB, Maru Sohele, 1020*

"Men, trees, pilgrimage places, banks of sacred streams, clouds, fields. Islands, spheres, universes, continents, solar systems.

The sources of creation, egg-born, womb-born, earth-born, sweat-born, oceans, mountains and sentient beings.

He, the Lord, knows their condition, O Nanak.

Nanak, having created beings, the lord takes care of them all.

The creator who created the world, He takes thought of it as well."

*Guru Granth Sahib page 1016*

As Guru Nanak Ji said: Pawan Guru pani pita mata dharat mahat (Air is our teacher, water our father and the great sacred earth is our mother). If we act now, we can protect our atmosphere, water resources and earth for ourselves and for future generations.

*greenfaith.org*

## TAOISM

Daode jing 13. . . Respect the world as your self:

The world can be your lodging.

Love the world as your self:

The world can be your trust

The flower invites the butterfly with no-mind;

The butterfly visits the flower with no-mind.

The flower opens, the butterfly comes;

The butterfly comes, the flower opens.

I don't know others,

Others don't know me.

By not-knowing we follow nature's course.

*Ryokan*

Daode jing 13. . . Respect the world as your self:

The world can be your lodging.

Love the world as your self:

The world can be your trust

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

"We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action."

*UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum*

Children of the earth and sky, we are nurtured, sustained, given warmth and light from above and below. Supported by earth's strong, firm crust, we build our homes, till the fields, plant our gardens and orchards. When we turn from self and seek to be aware, we will find holy light in human faces, in blossom, birdsong, and sky. Then earth is truly our home, and we are one with all earth's creatures, Parents of earth's children yet to be.

*Alice Berry*

As we go forth from this sacred space,  
May we celebrate Earth and our shared lives,  
May we recognize our connections to all that is in and on Earth,  
May we truly and deeply value the inherent worth of all  
In this awesome interconnected web of existence,  
May we commit ourselves to a new way,  
And may we hold our commitments and each other gently yet firmly.  
Blessed be and Amen.

*Diana Smith*