

Earth Team Prayers

Compiled by the Earth Team, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
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Contents

Earth Day Prayer.....	1
Earth Rap.....	2
Food Prayer.....	3
Gardening God's Way.....	4
What's Nature, Mum?.....	5
Fern Tree Gully National Park.....	6
Let Us Be as Children.....	7
The Place of Vision.....	8
Under Our Feet.....	9
Psalms 23 - Antithesis.....	10
Vic/Tas SYNOD 2001 – You are What you Eat – Closing Prayer.....	11

Earth Day Prayer

Dear God,

Today we have come together in thanks,
That we have such a world as this to live in.

Today we have come together to recognize,
That this world contains beauty beyond what we can understand,
Beauty that you created from your heart,
And that even if we have no use for something,
Some plant or small animal,
That it still has value, because it is one of your children,
One of your works of love,
To be valued just for that.

God we thank you and we come to you with honest hearts,
And let you see into our lives,
Where we have destroyed or damaged your works of love.

Help us to have a clear perspective,
On what is important to you,
As we make our choices,
About how to live.

We pray for forgiveness and healing,
Courage and strength,

So we may create a gentler way of life,
A new way to relate to the world you have made,
Where our own beauty comes alive,
In response to yours.

Earth Rap

[RAP] Don't cut out all creation
When you get your recreation
There is litter syncopation
Every corner of the nation
There's a motor infestation
So let's rail it to a station
Get a tree infatuation
And let's stop deforestation !!

[RAP] Never spend if you don't need
It'll only buy you greed
Say no way to smokin' weed
There's a lesson here to read
Think ha..rd before you feed
Then get out and plant some seed
Get in touch and you take heed
Earth's a necklace you're a bead

Food Prayer

God

We come together today to be in your presence
And to reflect on your gift of food.

God you are in all things,
You are in the Earth, and the grain,
In the salt, in the rain.

When we eat with thoughtfulness,
And when we eat with carelessness
You are there reaching out to us
Inviting us to deeper connections
Deeper nourishment

Inviting us to ask questions -
Like "Where has our food come from?"
Inviting us into mystery
How is it that we are energised and healed
Amused and satisfied by food

Thirst quenched and mind revived by water,
As if we are returned to the sea
A homecoming to the waters from whence we were born

Hunger for nourishment and energy
So strong that sometimes we forget ourselves
And eat too much
As if the food eats us and we are devoured by our need
But all along we only wanted love
And kindness.

God why is it that so many go hungry
Why is there land laid to waste
Or growing crops for cash sales
Quick returns
Soil degraded and dried out
Blown away like the winter of our sadness

God show us to plant the seed
Of a better relationship with food
A seed that will grow to nourish us
With vitamins and love
Protein and wisdom
Fibre and faith

Give us the strength to share with others
Help us to question our impact, our footprint,
Help us to eat with joy and be connected to what we eat
Remind us to seek the bread of life
The truth about being human
Is that we must love one another
And receive love in abundance

Creator God we thank you for your love
And we ask for your blessing on our time of sharing and learning,
Amen.

By Sean Walsh

Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumblin
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience
and Cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden We must have thyme:

Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer

Author unknown

What's Nature, Mum?

Life is nature.

All living things!

Are birds nature?

Yes, birds are nature.

Feathered, flying flocks of birds.

Nesting, mating, breeding birds.

Fish catching, sky dwelling, honey eating birds.

Do you like birds?

I *love* birds.

Are fish nature?

Yes fish are nature.

Scaly, silver schools of fish.

Swimming, skimming, diving fish.

Water living salty fish.

Do you like fish?

I *love* fish.

Is water nature?

Yes water is nature.

Ground sprung mirror pools of water.

Cloud burst stormy rain water.

Rock carve rapid rushing water.

Do you like water?

I *love* water.

Is rock nature?

Yes rock is nature.

Strong, silent mountain rock..

Deep, ancient solid rock..

Earth making weathered rock..

Do you like rock?

I *love* rock.

Is Earth nature?

Yes, Earth is nature.

Sun circling planet Earth.

Space flung spinning lonely Earth.

Nature bursting Mother Earth.

Do you like Earth?

I *love* Earth.

What's nature Mum?

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Fern Tree Gully National Park

The gully speaks to me as I walk through its gateway formed from a large log sawn to make an entrance, speaks to me of nature, natural, real; feelings and healing, wet, moist, air, clean water. Trees speak their knowledge.

Down gullies and up hills, washing in streams, sitting under tree ferns I travel and the forest teaches me. Teaches me about time and where I came from. Teaches me to stop and listen to sounds deeper than silence, sounds of an ancient drum beat, sounds of life's creation, pulsing of fern fronds and dragonflies and mushroom spores, rushing of water.

Change of scenery now as I reach the top of One Tree Hill and look back at the city and around at the Manna Gums and Mountain Ash and Stringybark and wonder at the white cockatoos soaring and gliding.

Winds carry a message to me, they carry it deep into my heart. *Unto this land you were born they said and unto this land you will die. See to it that you are aware of this and speak of nothing while you live except this land.*

Twisting to hear the little bird
my head darting like his.
Reaching for the tops of the Mountain Ash,
as if I could ever reach.
Wanting to dance and be held,
wishing for a well of happiness.
Finding some here some there in fragments of time
when I myself disappear and the forest comes alive in me.
Bending down to see the small things I say a prayer.

*Here is my place of birth
Here I was healed for the first time.
You reached me, my God, my maker, through eons of time
You reached me and I was made once again
I have only these few words to thank you
(And this small silence.)*

By Sean Walsh

Let Us Be as Children

God, let us be as children,
Bringing joy where we go
Taking simplicity and love in our pockets
Comforting those who are hurt and grieved.

God rest us when we are tired of bad news,
When we do our best but cannot see the end,
When injustice stings our hearts
And all seems unfair and dark.

Take us into your healing arms,
Sing us to sleep and give us dreams of gentleness,
Dreams of hope, and the coming of your kingdom,
Awake us renewed and strong.

Creator God
Help us to remember the whole of your creation,
Small animals and great rivers,
Lyrebirds, and whales of the deep sea,
Help us to hear the suffering of the rocks,
The anguish of the forests
The loneliness of a dying species
Left on the shelf of life's great journey.

God let us be a people of wisdom,
Following the lead of your Son,
Who did not sit by and let injustice be done,
But who spoke up and stood up
And would not be silenced,
But took his message of grace
To all beings, great and small,
To the strong, and to the weak.

God help us to work with heart and mind
To leave each day a little better than the last.
Amen

The Place of Vision

Go to your safe place. Call in your Guide/Higher Self

Find your way to a place where you will find the elements - earth, wind, fire and water. Ensure your Guide is with you there

Meet your Objector, the one who objects to you doing what you want, getting it. This may appear differently every time

Ask your Objector to give you its objections

Destroy them with the help of an element

Tell the objector to clear the path to the doorway to the unknown. Go to the Unknown and ensure your Guide is there with you.

Go through the unknown to the place of vision.

Plant your vision - as a seed or something you can build or grow

Be nurtured by your vision and know you can return to this place at any time to nurture or be nurtured by your vision.

Author unknown

Under Our Feet

Dear God,

There are some great books you wrote for us,
And left upon the Earth,
Like the Tarkine,
The Barrier Reef, the Alps.

There are some great songs you wrote for us,
Like the sound of an owl in flight,
The songs of whales, and she-oaks,
And lyrebirds.

There are some problems you set for us,
Like how to live simply,
And honestly.
We are still working them out.

God
Help us to save what's left,

And help us to have some time left over
To read the books of the earth

Let it be that our children are taught
To hear the songs of animals,

To read aloud the kindness
Written into the earth under our feet.

Amen

By Sean Walsh

Psalm 23 - Antithesis

The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.
It makes me lie down only when exhausted.
It leads me to deep depression, it hounds my soul.
It leads me in circles of frenzy for activity's sake.
Even though I run frantically from task to task,
I will never get it done, for my "ideal" is with me.
Deadlines and my need for approval, they drive me.
They demand performance from me, beyond the limits of my schedule.
They anoint my head with migraines, my in-basket over-flows.
Surely fatigue and time pressure shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the bonds of frustration forever.

By Marcia K. Hornok

Vic/Tas SYNOD 2001 – You are What you Eat – Closing Prayer

God

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And to reflect on your gift of food.

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You are in the Earth, and the grain,
In the salt, in the rain.

When we eat with thoughtfulness,
And when we eat with carelessness
You are there
Watching and waiting with love,
Inviting us to deeper connections
Deeper nourishment.

You are there
Inviting us to ask questions -
Like "Where has our food come from?"
Inviting us into mystery
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God

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The truth about being human
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And receive love in abundance

Creator God we thank you for your love
And we thank you for life, good food, and friends.
Amen.