A Prayer for Gratitude

St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
to you all praise, glory and honor and all blessing;
to you alone, Most High, they belong
and no one is worthy of naming you.

Praised by you, my Lord,
with all your creatures,
especially Milord Brother Sun,
who brings day, and by whom you enlighten us;
he is beautiful, he shines with great splendor,
of you, Most High, he is the symbol.

Praised be you, my Lord, for sister Moon and the Stars:
in the heavens you formed them,
clear, precious and beautiful.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Brother Wind
and for the air and for the clouds,
for the azure calm and for all climes
by which you give life to your creatures.
Praised by you, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful and humble, precious and chaste.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Brother Fire, by whom you enlighten the night: he is beautiful and joyous, indomitable and strong.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Sister our mother the earth who nourishes us and bears us, and produces all kinds of fruits, with the speckled flowers and the herbs.

This prayer was used for Earth Day, 1990
From: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005

A Call to Prayer
Hildegard of Bingen
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.

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A Prayer of Awareness
Hildegard of Bingen

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.

This prayer was used for Earth Day, 1990
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A Call to Prayer

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.

A Prayer of Awareness
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 allurement, 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.

Two Prayers by St. Patrick

I.
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.

II.
I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in threeness,
Through confession of the oneness 
Of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of heaven,
Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind,
Depth of sea,
Stability of earth,
Firmness of rock.

I arise today
Through a might, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
of the Creator of Creation.

Earth Day Opening Prayer

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.

*Taken from liturgy materials used on Earth Day 1997 at Seattle University*  
*Provided by*  [Earth Ministry](http://www.earthministry.org)

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**Consider Creation**

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.

Source: service from August 1992, "Coming to See"
Prayers

Prayer of Praise

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)
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.

Source unknown

Hymn of the Universe
Teilhard de Chardin
I live at the heart of a single, unique Element, the Center of the universe, and present in each part of it: personal Love and cosmic Power.

To attain to him and become merged into his life I have before me the entire universe with its noble struggles, its impassioned quests, its myriad of souls to be healed and made perfect. I can and I must throw myself into the thick of human endeavor, and with no stopping for breath. For the more I bring my efforts to bear on the whole surface of reality, the more also will I attain to Christ and cling close to him. God who is eternal Being-in-itself, is, one might say, ever in process of formation for us.

And God is also the heart of everything; so much so that the vast setting of the universe might be engulfed or wither away or be creation's dust, which is vitalized by a halo of energy and glory, to be swept away, the substantial Reality wherein every perfection is incorruptibly contained and possessed would remain intact; the rays would be drawn back onto their Source and there I should still hold them all in close embrace.

A Reflection on our Present Plight

*Hildegard of Bingen*

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.