

Opening: Song – Marty Haugen

Refrain:

*From the corners of creation to the center where we stand,
Let all things be blessed and holy, all is fashioned by your hand;
Brother wind and sister water, mother earth and father sky,
Sacred plants and sacred creatures, sacred people of the land.*

Gestures are taught and the Refrain is sung again with the gestures

(After the opening refrain the room is quietly placed into darkness and someone reads the beginning of the prologue of John.)

A Reading from the Gospel and Letter of John

In the beginning was the Word
And the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: And into the darkness we invite our Brother Fire
(The fire is lit...)

Leader: **We invite you Brother Fire.**

We honor your presence with us this day and reverence the creative force that you are in our lives.

We ask you to teach us

I am Fire.

When there was darkness, the energy of our God, created me to ignite the big bang
and move your universe into existence.

You know me in many ways but none more spectacular than that sacred moment.

You know me as the warmth of a fireplace

and the cozy feeling of sitting by my side on a cold winter's night.

You honor me as the flame on the candle that begins your sacred prayer.

I am the light that enabled your ancestors to make the night visible and

I am the new fire of your Sacred Easter Vigil and

the flame you hold to renew your sacred vows.

I can be tame and controlled but wild and brutal.

You have known me in all my forms
but I come to you tonight to teach you
about the passion of my fire.
that lives within the heart of you.
Come now, be with me,
as I teach you to light the light within, to dance and shine
for all who come within your view.
Come let me brighten your hearts.

Leader: Let us pray

ALL: We welcome you brother fire ignite us with the energy of your love.

(Let the lights come on gently and all sing)

Refrain with gestures:

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Let all things be blessed and holy, all is fashioned by your hand;
Brother wind and sister water, mother earth and father sky,
Sacred plants and sacred creatures, sacred people of the land.*

(softly allow the group to settle
play the sound of a water..... leave a potent silence for all to welcome Sister Water in their hearts and
then begin)

**Leader: We invite you Sister Water, Holy Water, to wash us clean, come,
come into our assembly to teach us.**

(Have four people enter with a basin of water and someone blessing the congregation with water
soaked branches)

I am Water.

I quench your thirst and nourish your bodies.

I cleanse your wounds and refresh your spirit.

You bathe in me and allow my calming flow to encircle and immerse your weary body.

You honor me with your trust as you float upon my surface.

You see me in many forms as I whirl about you:

I trickle, I roar, I gush, I dribble.

I'm wet and quenching, drippy and drenching.

Whether I come from earth or from the sky

I'm fizzy and funny, yucky or yummy.

I'm a gentle sprinkle or a roaring sea.

and three quarters of you is me.

I'm half of this earth and it is I

who provide a home for all who live within the seas and the rivers

and, if you let me,

I can teach you how to let go of the past, flow freely in each moment of the day,
and move forward so you're ready for all that is to come.
I am water, come, let me be a source of life for you.

Leader: Let us pray

All: We welcome you water to refresh our weary spirit.

Refrain with gestures:

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Let all things be blessed and holy, all is fashioned by your hand;
Brother wind and sister water, mother earth and father sky,
Sacred plants and sacred creatures, sacred people of the land.*

(The lights dim again and we hear the sound of the wind.....and watch gently the effect of the wind on the chiffon and take time to watch it dancing. We also watch people enter with flowing streamers walking toward the stage.)

Leader: **We invite you Brother Wind and Air, speak to us of your energy, and tell us about yourself**

I am the voice of Air and you know me as Brother Wind.
You know my sound in all my varied voices
The gentle breeze that you listen hard to hear and
my ferocious roar that marks the storms this day might bring.
It is I who announces what you can expect in your day.
I bring a gentle ocean breeze with the summer sun above
or a more substantial one that sets your sails ashore.
It is I who clears away old limbs and leaves
and sets the pace for the dance you see
in that old weeping willow tree.
It is I who gives the trees a voice
and splashes the ocean waves upon a shore.
I am the breath within your body
come straight from the breath of God.
I can teach you how not to be stagnant
but to let the force of life run through you.
I can nourish your spirit with the oxygen of life
and let your carbon dioxide waste
become the food for all the trees and plants.
I can teach you about consciousness
and blow away the cobwebs from your mind and heart.
standing alert and ready to respond.
I can teach you not to fear the winds of change
but to have the courage to stand alert and ready
full faced in the winds of life.

Leader: Let us pray

All: We welcome you Winds of change

Refrain with gestures:

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Sacred plants and sacred creatures, sacred people of the land.*

(From all four corners of the room trees and multicolored flowers are brought forth.... and a visual of the planet and then mountains and a field full of vegetables moving to a field of plants and trees and then simple pot with a flower and then we welcome all the nations of the earth)

Leader: We invite you Sister Mother Earth and ask you to bring before us the rocks you have given us and the plant and the oils from the plants and trees and all the elements that live within our bodies.

I am Earth. I set before you the plant nations, the trees, the oils from the plants and the trees and all the elements that live within Earth. I bring gifts to nourish your body and heal your soul.

I am animate and inanimate matter.

I am made of the same elements as your body. You come from me and come back to me.

I am your home. I am the life that grows within and all around you.

I nourish your body and bring beauty to your soul.

I rejoice when your eyes notice the color of my mountains, my trees, and the beauty in each flower.

I am the fragrance that sweetens your heart and the punchent smell that nourishes the vine made ready to ripen before your very eyes.

I am the trees and the mountains I can teach you how to rise and fall and how to regenerate new life even when disaster strikes the core of all that is.

If you let me I can teach you to surrender yourself to the forces of life and fill you with that vital energy, the gift of our all loving God.

Leader: Let us pray

We thank you mother earth for receiving the seeds and enabling the growth of all our world.

Refrain with refrain:

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A continuation of the reading from the Gospel and Letter of St. John

This is what we proclaim to you:

what was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked upon
and our hands have touched.
We speak of the word of life.
This life became visible;
we have seen and bear witness to it:

(The San Damiano Cross is brought in with great reverence and all sit in stillness and contemplate its meaning as it is placed before us.)

(A continuation of the reading from the Gospel and Letter of St. John)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.
From his fullness we have all received
grace upon grace.

What we have seen and heard,
we proclaim to you,
so that you may share life with us.
This kinship of ours is with the Father
and with the Son, Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.
It is God the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart
Who has made him known

The Word of THE LORD.

A Reading from Brother Francis:

Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for he created and formed you in the image of his beloved Son according to the body and to his likeness according to the spirit. (Admonition Five)

Leader: Let us pray together:

Together and separately we are the gifts that God has given. We are fire. We are air. We are water. We are Earth. The same elements that God created at the beginning of our universe exist within each

of us and all of creation. Together we create a web of life and a circle of love and from the corners of creation we come listening to God from all directions.

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Verse 1:

*In the east, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morn,
Here the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born;
All who honor life around them, all who honor life within,
They shall shine with light and glory when the morning breaks again.*

Verse 2:

*In the south, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the earth,
Both the painful song of dying and the joyful song of birth;
As the earth gives up her life-blood so her children's hearts may beat,
We give back to her our rev'rence holy ground beneath our feet.*

Verse 3:

*In the north, the place of wisdom, there is holy darkness deep,
Here the silent song of myst'ry may awake you from your sleep;
Here the music still and holy sounds beneath the snow and night
In the ones who wait with patience for the coming of the light.*

Verse 4:

*In the west, the place of seeing, there is born a vision new
Of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed a gospel true;
Let the creatures of creation echo back creation's prayer,
Let the Spirit now breathe through us and restore the sacred there.*

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