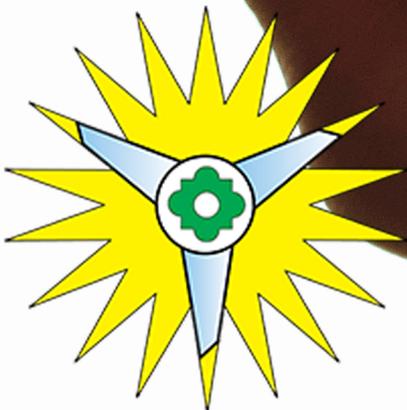


Prayers for Creation

From Many Different
Faith Traditions



By North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light



PRAYERS ON THE ENVIRONMENT*

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

Buddhism

*Even as a mother protects with her life,
Her child, her only child,
So with a boundless heart
Should one cherish all living beings,
Radiating kindness over the entire world,
Spreading upwards to the skies,
And downwards to the depths.*

~ Metta Sutta

Christianity

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein;
for the Lord has founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the rivers.*

~ Psalm 24:1-2

Hinduism

*Even if there is only one tree full of flowers and fruit in a village,
that place becomes worthy of worship and respect.*

~ Mahabharata, Adiparra, 138:25

Indigenous Native American

*Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands all alone.
Earth teach me limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep with rain.*

~ Ute Prayer

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

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

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

Sikhism

*God created night and day, seasons, time, and occasions.
So also air, water, fire, and nether regions.
Amidst these has God fixed the earth, the place for Righteous Activities.
~ Guru Granth Sahib*

Sufism

*Lord, the air smells good today, straight from the mysteries
within the inner courts of God,
a grace like new clothes thrown across the garden,
free medicine for everybody.
The trees in their prayer, the birds in praise,
the first blue violets kneeling.
Whatever came from Being is caught up in being,
Drunkenly forgetting the way back.
~ Rumi*

Taoism

*Heaven cannot but be high. Earth cannot but be broad. The sun and moon
cannot but revolve. All creation cannot but flourish. To do so is their Tao.
~ Chuang Tze*

Shintoism

*Our gratitude, love, and responsibility within a living nature
should not be avoided.*

*Seeing a forest as merely an object of economic activity
is a kind of trafficking in flesh, an injustice, a crime.*

*A long time, deep love, and continuous effort are needed for a natural environment
to recover and to compensate for the human crime of cutting trees.*

Nature can't be revived without our understanding and resolve.

~ Shoroku Shinto Yamatoyama

Unitarian Universalism

*The food which we are about to eat
is Earth, Water, and Sun, compounded through the alchemy of many plants.
Therefore Earth, Water, and Sun will become part of us.*

This food is also the fruit of the labor of many beings and creatures.

We are grateful for it.

May it give us strength, health, and joy.

And may it increase our love.

~ Unitarian Universalist Prayer