



Chapel Of The Holy Spirit

*Community of the Holy Spirit — Melrose
Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center*

We are not “more important” than a spider mite or a pear tree; all are necessary to the emerging adventure, and each has its own beautiful, precious self.

CELEBRATING THE SACRIFICE AND GIFT OF LIFE

The assembly gathers around the table, raising hands to honor and bless the food, saying together

Blessed is the Dreamer, and blessed is the Dream. With joy and reverence we receive this food; may it become for us the source of compassionate action.

As the food is shared, from one person to another, the following (or any other appropriate phrase) may be said:

Receive this gift of Earth.

or: **The gift of energy, given by another for your life.**

or: **This is the body of the sun, given for you.**

When all have shared in the food, all sit in silence.

Let us give thanks for these gifts of life.

Holy One, we accept our part in the sacrifice necessary for the Universe adventure. As we have received the blessing given by others on our behalf, let us with joyful hearts prepare to share our lives in turn. Let us take only what we need, and may we do so with respect, cooperating in the amazing dance of life. May we offer ourselves in delight and wonder, ever mindful that communion binds us to the Heart of our sacred home.

So be it.

Let us walk gently on Earth, live in openness and with compassion for all, remember the generations to come, and celebrate every moment for the wonder and mystery that it is. May we go in peace.

So be it. Let us go forth into the delight and wonder of this day.

Sacred Dreamer, in unfathomable wisdom you ignited our Universe into being nearly fourteen billion years ago. Through the ages your creation has yearned toward self-revelation. As space and time unfurled in the foaming, chaotic fire of possibility, particles flickered in and out of existence. Then, as infinite potential cooled into the structures, laws and powers that formed our bloodline, the order of the Universe emerged – galaxies with their countless stars fluttered into being across the now vast Universe.

Energy became focused in the engines of stars, their lives echoing the sacrificial nature of creation. Burning their hydrogen bodies, they set free helium and energy, important characters in the play of the Universe.

Our own lovely planet was poised in the Dreamer's heart when our grandmother star burst apart in her final death throes, giving birth to the life-giving star we call "sun". Gravitational attraction pulled pieces of space-traveling matter into a nascent planet, one destined to carry the adventure of the Universe to amazing accomplishment.

As time continued to unfurl, life stirred in the depths of Earth's steaming oceans, and with the astounding development of photosynthesis, Earth learned to eat the sun – our first eucharist. Plants, insects, animals, fish, humans, rocks, waterfalls, lizards, rain – the power of life appeared in boundless form and with ever-deepening abilities.

Together the burgeoning Earth communities give face and voice to the Divine Creator. Today we continue to participate in this dance of life, taking in and releasing energy just as our ancestors the first particles learned to do. Our duty and our joy is twofold: to speak the glad celebration of all creation as it takes part in the glorious, primary revelation of the Sacred One, and to participate in the evolutionary journey of consciousness with mindfulness and awe.

Let us name and honor the triune nature of this holy place:

**Everything in the Universe is in deep communion.
Everything in the Universe is unique.
Everything in the Universe contains its own valuable interiority.**

We celebrate our own place in the community of Mother Earth, giving praise to the Holy Dream that transformed a cloud of hydrogen into stars, otters, rosebushes, mountains, eagles and people. We remember that this miracle of transformation occurs because the journey of life in this Universe is itself holy, powerful, and beautiful.

HOLY WISDOM, HOLY WORD

Music may be inserted at any point during this service.

In ordinary time

Blessed be the Holy One: creative Love, Word spoken into being, and guiding Wisdom.
And blessed be the sacred Mystery of the Universe, now and for ever. So be it.

From Easter Day through the Octave of Pentecost

Alleluia. Life is renewed.
Life is renewed indeed. Alleluia.

During Lent

Blessed is the Heart of compassion.
Holy mercy endures for ever.

Divine Mystery, we stand with hearts and minds open to the inspiration of Universal Wisdom; may we step into each moment with compassion for all the created order, with respect for all that we do not understand, with love for the immense beauty that surrounds us. May each moment bring forth a song of celebration from the depth of our living. **So be it.**

The following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said

**We shout with joy for the wonder of Ultimate Mystery,
and sing praise for all communities of Earth.**

**Creative energy, sacred wisdom, elegant balance,
and deep-time desire for life, we give voice to the
aching need for celebration as we delight in the
glory of our Universe!**

**This is our home, a cradle of life and being.
This alone is our home.**

**Creative Spirit
Heart of all Being
Wisdom beyond all we can know**

awaken in us the spirit of awe and appreciation
that is ours to embody;
may we be a voice of joy and peace for all
you have created.
So be it.

On other occasions the following may be used

Heart of Love, be our guide.
Wisdom of the ages, be our guide.
Heart of Love, be our guide.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bless the Sacred Reality that shines within.
And the Divine Mystery that illuminates all.
Let us pray.

The officiant offers the following collect, or any other suitable prayer.

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of Earth that you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your garden.

Help us to know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us: your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to engage the Great Work that lies before us. Help us to so love Earth that our very lives will heal the soil and refresh the air and water. Inspire in us the ambition to add our happy voices to the chorus of praise that daily rises from the rest of all your creatures. Mitigate our heavy, noisome, oppressive presence on the blighted patches that are strip mine, clear cut, slurry pond and CAFO.

We pray in the name of your Anointed One, who taught us from seaside and river, grassy plain and mountain top, grain field and vineyard that Your Presence is at hand, not even a breath away, beautiful and holy in all respects, and that in your presence Earth rings with Alleluias.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Other prayers may be added or substituted; at the conclusion of the prayers is said

May each moment bring forth a song of celebration from the depth of our living. **So be it.**

READINGS

At the conclusion of each passage, the reader may say

Holy wisdom, holy word.
We give thanks for the gift of these words.

Silence or a Psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow each reading.

THE PEACE

May the peace of El Shaddai and the Love of creation dwell in your heart.

Let us share in the joy of life. **So be it.**

CELEBRATING EUCHARISTIC WISDOM

May we re-awaken to the truth of communion, differentiation and interiority.

We reflect the triune wisdom of the Universe.

May we celebrate the sacredness of all life!

We rejoice in the beauty of all that surrounds us!

May we open our hearts in thanksgiving.

It is with great joy and peace that we offer our love.

From the depth of our unique endowment we offer thanks, praise and joy for the beauty and elegance of the Universe, and for this Earth, our own precious home.

Therefore we lift our voices in glad celebration.

Here is sung or said the following, or any other appropriate hymn of praise, celebration, or remembrance:

Glorious, sacred, elegant One,
Mystery of wisdom and love –
Mother Earth and her wondrous family
reflect the wisdom of your creative Mind.
Blessed are all; we come in the name of Peace.
Sing out a great song of praise!