

**WORSHIP FOR PRACTICAL HOPE WORKSHOP  
HALIFAX PRESBYTERY, APRIL 4, 2009**

Call to Worship:

This we know: the earth does not belong to us,  
**we belong to the earth.**

This we know: all things are connected,  
**like the blood that unites one family.**

This we know: we did not weave the web of life,  
**we are merely a strand in it.**

This we know: whatever we do to the web of life,  
**we do to ourselves.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,  
let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ. (Iona Community CGP 21T015)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:

L1: We give you thanks for the elements of earth, air, fire and water. We thank you for the life they sustain and symbolize.

L2: (handful of earth lifted up.) We give you thanks for earth, for the bounty of life that flows from it, the astonishing regeneration every spring of flowers and fruit, grass and grain. We lament that earth is also abused, and exploited, taken from many, given to a few.

**All: We confess our sin against the earth. Guide us to seek life, we pray.**

L1: (feather lifted up) Spirit of life, we give you thanks for air and wind and breath, for sky and bird. We lament city smog, fumes of cars and industry, threatening to choke the breath of creation. We lament these carbon emissions precipitating such drastic climate change.

**All: We confess our sin against the air. Guide us to preserve life, we pray.**

L2: (candle lifted up) Holy One, ever-burning love and Pentecostal flame, we give you thanks for fire that warms and for the sun that lights our days and gives energy for us to harness. We confess our lack of inner fire and passion for life, for peace, justice and the care of creation.

**All: We confess our coldness of heart and apathy. Breathe into us your enlivening spirit, we pray.**

L1: (jug of water poured out) Fountain of Living Waters, we give you thanks for water essential to life, for all that refreshes and cleanses, for rivers and lakes, rain and sea. We lament deliberate pollution, wasteful use, flood and erosion.

**All: Forgive us when we have followed the easy course. May we become agents of healing, watering the earth with our sweat and tears. Teach us to care passionately and to change our ways. We pray for the healing and wholeness of our beloved planet home. Amen (source unknown)**

**Hymn:** For beauty of prairies VU 303 (or other.)

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 8 selected verses and Matthew 13 44-45  
brief comment from Bruce Sanguin's "Darwin, Divinity and the Dance  
of the Cosmos."

### **Seeking wisdom and action in this workshop**

#### **A Pledge for a New Beginning:**

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

#### **We have forgotten who we are.**

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

#### **We have forgotten who we are.**

Now the land is barren

And the waters are poisoned

And the air is polluted.

#### **We have forgotten who we are.**

Now the forests are dying

And the creatures are disappearing

And humans are despairing.

#### **We have forgotten who we are.**

We ask forgiveness.

We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength to change.

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To bring new life to the land  
To restore the waters  
To refresh the air.

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To renew the forests  
To care for the plants  
To protect the creatures.

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To celebrate the seas  
To rejoice in the sunlight  
To sing the song of the stars.

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To recreate the human community  
To promote justice and peace  
To remember our children.

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

**We join together as many and diverse expressions  
of one loving mystery:  
for the healing of the earth  
and the renewal of all life. AMEN** (CGP 211006)

**Hymn:** To show by touch and word VU427

Commissioning and benediction:  
Go out with joy and peace confident that by the grace of God the world may be redeemed from exploitation and greed through our dedication to God's will for wholeness and healing throughout the created order. May the blessing of God creator, Christ and Spirit rest upon you now and always. **Amen**

**Hymn:** Go make a difference MV 209