



## ***The Cosmos Within***

Marion Center, Holyoke, Massachusetts

### **Opening Prayer**

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer as we consider the gifts of your cosmos and the stewardship of Earth and sky you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image.

We know that in our gathering, 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 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

### **Prayer of Praise<sup>1</sup>**



**Choir 1:** 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)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/liturgy/prayers.htm#cosmos>

**Choir 2:** 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)

**Choir 1:** 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)

**Choir 2:** ... 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)

**Choir 1:** 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)

**Choir 2:** 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)

**Choir 1:** . . . 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)

**Choir 2:** ... 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)

**Choir 1:** 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)

**Choir 2:** ... We are the matter of the cosmos, contemplating itself (Carl Sagan, astronomer)

**All:** All creation is a song of praise to God. (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)



## Blessing by the Stars

Each Person will make the sign of the cross in ashes on the forehead of the person next to them saying:

**From the stars you were made and to the stars you will return!**

Then hand the bowl to that person. Remain in silence until all are done.



## Reflection and Discussion

How is God speaking to you through this time of retreat?

What has touched you?

What has puzzled you?

What mental hard candies have you found yourself sucking on?



[www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org)

## Psalm of the Cosmos

**Choir 1:** Loving God, loving God,  
all creation calls you blessed,  
and so do we, and so do we.

**Choir 2:** 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.

**Choir 1:** For you have woven an intimate tapestry  
and call it life, and called it good.

**Choir 2:** 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.

**Choir 1:** 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.

**Choir 2:** 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.

**Choir 1:** Open our hearts to understand  
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.

**Choir 2:** Loving God, loving God,  
all creation calls you blessed,  
and so do we, and so do we.

## **Hymn of the Universe**, Pierre 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 [God] and become merged into [Christ] 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.

Amen



<https://omegacenter.info/response-to-new-cosmic-story/>