

## **CRY OF THE EARTH**

### **Leader:**

We gather in communion with our sisters and brothers throughout the world in a movement to protect our beautiful earth from being fracked.

Fracking is another symptom of a mindset that sees nature as a resource to be used. Let us acknowledge the sacredness of the ground we stand on by singing our opening chant. Let us remember what our ancestors knew, that the natural world is alive. It is all connected, all intelligent.

### **HOLY GROUND**, by Monica Brown

You are here, so this is holy ground

In all that is You are here.

This is holy ground, the ground of my

Being now

My spirit bows to You upon this holy ground

### **Leader:**

Thomas Berry once said that the environmental disasters we are now experiencing are a result of spiritual 'autism', that we 'are not talking to the rivers, we are not listening to the wind and the stars. We have broken the conversation.' Job understood the importance of conversation with nature as we hear in the following reading

### **Job 12: 7-8**

'You have only to ask the cattle, for them to instruct you, and the birds of the sky, for them to inform you.

The creeping things of earth will give you lessons, and the fish of the sea provide you an explanation.'

### **Leader:**

Pope Benedict reminded us that 'our earth speaks to us and we must listen if we want to survive.'

Thich Nhat Hanh when asked what we most need to do to save the world, replied that 'What we most need to do is to hear within us the sound of the earth crying'. Let us listen with our heart to the earth and its creatures lamenting the possibility of being fracked. Allow that lament to awaken your compassionate response.

## **Lament of the earth**

### **ROCK**

I, formed millions of years ago, will soon be left shattered and broken by the impact of gallons of water, full of toxic chemical, poured into me to extract my shale gas. I, pure rock, that provides the minerals of the soil will be infiltrated by poison. I tremble at the mention of 'fracking'. Can you not discern my fear? I invite you to lament for me and for you.

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **WATER**

I, water, pristine, clear and beautiful support life! I, too, tremble! Full of chemicals I will be poured at tremendous speed into rocks. 70% of me will be left beneath the earth, where I am likely to pollute underground aquifers. My water that comes above the earth will poison the creatures that drink me. I instead of giving life I will bring poison and death. I invite you to lament what will happen to me and to you.

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **AIR**

O, humans hear my cry! I, the air that you and all living beings breathe, tremble. I am now pure and invigorating but soon the toxic chemicals released through 'fracking' will contaminate me and then by contaminate you. I invite you to lament at what is going to happen to me and to you

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **A COW**

I, a cow, a vital link in the food chain, give you milk, butter, cheese and meat. I, too, tremble. If the land is 'fracked' I will drink contaminated water and breathe contaminated air. Instead of feeding you healthy produce I will bring you sickness and death. I invite you to lament for what is going to happen to me and to you.

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **A WORM**

Humans, can you not hear my pain? I, too, tremble in fear. I who work so hard to ensure that your soil is aerated will soon have concrete pads placed on top of me. These pads will kill off millions of microbes, insects and worms that inhabit this area. I invite you to lament at what is going to happen to me and to you.

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **A BEE**

I am a bee who is also trembling. The fields of wild flowers where I collect my nectar will soon be concreted. I will lose my feeding ground. I will also be contaminated by toxic chemicals. I could become extinct. Einstein said that if I die out so will you, humans. Can you not hear the sound of my weeping? I invite you to lament at what will happen to me and to you.

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

## **A HUMAN**

I am a sensitised human who is trembling greatly. I will breathe impure air, drink polluted water, eat toxic food if fracking occurs in my country. The ecosystems which support me will be poisoned and Contaminated. I greatly fear for my future. Sickness and cancer will increase. I invite you to lament with me for what will happen to me and to you

Response: My sorrow, my sorrow, my great, great sorrow!

**A prayer for Global Restoration by Michelle Balek, OSF (All pray together)**

Good and Gracious god, Source of the evolving Universe,  
Source of all Life, All creation is charged with your Divine Energy.

Ignite your Spark within us,  
That we may know ourselves As truly human and holy,  
Irrevocably part of the Web of Life.

All creation

- each star and every flower,
- each drop of water and every person,
- each and every atom, down to its very electrons,  
explodes with the revelation of your sacred mystery.

Our minds alone cannot fathom such splendor,  
Our hearts can only respond in awe, praise and gratitude.

Forgive us, we pray, our ignorance  
And insecurities which

- blinds us to your Thumbprint writ large,
- deafen us to the sacred space  
between two heartbeats,
- prompt us in arrogance to demand and dominate,
- numb us to the destruction we've caused,
- hold us hostage to 'either-or' thinking and living.

May we always walk gently upon this earth,

- in right relationship,
- nurtured by your Love,
- taking only what we need,
- giving back to the earth in gratitude,
- honouring all with reverence,
- reconciling and healing,
- mindful of those who will come after,
- recognizing our proper place as part of,  
not apart from, your creation

Grant us the strength and courage, we pray,  
For such radical transformation into your Kin-dom.  
Then we, too, with the very stones will shout,  
'HOSANNA'

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*** Margaret Mead