

## Mercy Day Universal Prayer Service



Welcome and centering invitation

Eileen Dooling, RSM

Ringling of the Prayer Bowl

Ann McGovern, RSM

Opening Prayer **(everyone)**

God and Creator of all, in your love you made the nations of the world to be a family. You created all people in your image. We thank you for the variety of ways to be in relationship with you and for the astonishing variety of religions, races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by every-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all humankind.

Chant: Whichever Way You Turn

**Quran 2:115**

*Chanting for Peace, Praying with the Earth,  
John Philip Newell with soloist Suzanne Butler*

Whichever Way you turn,  
Whichever way you turn.  
Whichever way you turn.  
Whichever way you turn.  
There is the face of God.

*(Arabic Descant – Ya Basir ‘God the All Seeing’)*

**Scripture for your quiet reflection from a selection of world religions**

Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

**Matthew 22:39**

Whichever way you turn there is the face of God.

**Quran – The Cow 2.115**

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

**The Talmud**

Fill your mind with me; love me; serve me; worship me always. Seeking me in your heart, be united with me.”

**Bhagavad Gita**

**Soothing fiddle and healing harp music**

Marcie Swift

## Litany for the Earth

Based on "A Prayer for Our Earth" by Pope Francis

Leader: God of Compassion, Creator of all things  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: God you are present in all living creatures  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Earth is your gift, to be shared with all creatures  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Fill us with reverence and wonder for all things  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: We are united with all in existence  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Heal us from greed and disregard for others  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Help our government officials to recognize the dignity of all who are marginalized  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

**Leader:** Enable our elected officials to create just gun legislation that puts an end to the mass killings that we are getting numb to.  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Fill us with peace, to live as one family  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love**

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, you dwell deep within us.  
**All: Pour out your mercy, pour out your love.**

Leader: Answer the cry of the earth and its creatures  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: All beings dwell in your tender embrace  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: We are not owners, but stewards of the earth  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: Teach us to value the worth of each person  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: Help us to rescue the poor and abandoned  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: Make us brothers and sisters, not harming each other. Enable us to resolve our conflicts through conversations grounded in mutuality and respect.  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: Lead us, inspire us to do what is good and just  
**All: Heal our common home!**

Leader: Are there any additional prayers that need to be spoken...  
**All: O God present amongst us, hear our prayer.**

## Sending Forth Prayer

Compassionate One, let wisdom continue to unfold in our hearts and minds this night and in the men and women of every nation. Let us see the foundations for a new harmony within us and between us, the foundations for our recovered unity with the earth and all its creatures, for the ground of life is in you, O God, the ground of our life is in you. **All: Amen.**

### **Sending Forth Blessing**

The blessings of heaven, the blessings of earth, the blessings of sea and of sky, on those we love this night and on every human family.

### **Sending Forth Hymn**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Creator  
Family all are we  
Let us walk each other  
In perfect harmony.

### **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

**Jill Jackson and Sy Miller**

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

