



WE ARE CHURCH International

Saturday, 4 October 2025

Reflecting on 800 Years St. Francis ' Laudato S

Facilitator: Uschi S.

1

Opening Song: *Dances with the wolves.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ast9w2gRLtI>

2

Gathering

We gather in the presence of one another and of Holy Mystery who is known by many names:
Our Creator God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit, Amen.

3

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
You are with us this day and each day.
You are among us now, we welcome you.

Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

Greetings to the Natural World

Reader 1: KOCHURANI A.

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.
Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.
Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms- waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.
Now our minds are one.

The Fish

We turn our minds to the all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

The Food Plants

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

Now our minds are one.

Reader 2 COLM H.

The Medicine Herbs

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

Now our minds are one.

The Animals

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

Now our minds are one

The Trees

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Now our minds are one.

The Birds

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Four Winds

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

Now our minds are one.

The Thunderers

Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. With lightning and thundering voices, they bring with them the water that renews life. We are thankful that they keep those evil things made by Okwiseres underground. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

Now our minds are one.

Reader 3 NOELLA D.

The Sun

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Now our minds are one.

Grandmother Moon

We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of woman all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

Now our minds are one.

The Stars

We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.

Now our minds are one.

The Enlightened Teachers

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was developed, published in 1993, and provided, courtesy of: Six Nations Indian Museum b

Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk) Mohawk version: Rokwaho (Dan Thompson, Wolf Clan/Mohawk) Original inspiration: Tekaronianekon (Jake Swamp, Wolf Clan/Mohawk)

5

Sharing of thoughts

6

Prayers of the community

7

Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos

Reader 4 SOLINE H.

God, the Cosmic Dancer, we honor you.

You who choreograph

the solar flares,

the orbits of the planets

and the wild careening of comets and meteors.

You who can name every ancient rock in the

Asteroid Belt,

you who can tango with

typhoons and twisters and tornadoes,

we honor you.

God, the Ultimate Artist, we honor you.

You who paint sunrises and sunsets,

the plumage of birds and the camouflage of insects.

You, who with your finest brushes,

watercolor the wings of butterflies

and the costumes of flowers,

we honor you.

God, the Sculptor, we honor you.

You who chisel out rocks and mountain ranges,

and cup your hands to form sand dunes,

we honor you.

God, the Writer, we honor you.

You who leave traces of your penmanship everywhere;

holographically concealing your entire Magnum Opus

in every line of the text.

we honor you.

Reader 5 FRANÇOIS B.

God, the Musician, we honor you.
You who make flutes
of the willows by the lakeside
and of the reeds on the river bank;
you whose bass-baritone reverberates in the thunder
and whose soprano trills
in the morning music of the blackbird;
you who drum ecstatically with your raindrops
on the sun-parched plains;
and you who hold all of these sounds
in the silence of a star-studded night sky,
we honor you.

God, the Mathematician, we honor you.
You who love to play with binary codes
with base 4 and 6 and 8;
with rational numbers and with irrational numbers,
with real numbers and with imaginary numbers;
you who from nothing created the One
and from the One, created the partnership of the Two;
and from the Two created the Many;
and, then, from the Many
collapsed all, mystically, back to the One,
we honor you.

God, the Physicist, we honor you.
Quantum-leaping
from the impossible to the possible;
from the improbable to the probable;
and from the potential to the actual,
we honor you.

Reader 6 MAEVE W.

God, the Biologist, we honor you.
You who whirl ecstatically around your own image
in the double helix of life-making,
we honor you.

God, the Architect, we honor you.
You who silently whisper the secrets of home-building
in the hearts of weaver-birds and ants;
in the hearts of spiders and mice;
in the sacred geometry of the temple-makers
and in the wombs of mammal mothers,
we honor you.

God, the Awakener, we honor you.
You who patiently call forth
more and more complete images of Yourself,
until a species is born that remembers fully.
we honor you.

And so, since infinity is contained in a single grain of sand,
we choose bread and we choose the blood of the vine,
symbols offered us by Jesus.

On the night before he was cruelly killed, using the food of his last meal with his friends, he said:

**All: Take this all of you and eat it.
This is my body;
the body which I accepted at my incarnation,
the body that I needed for my mission,
the body which is the visible sign
of the Word made flesh.
And you, also, have done the same.
Remember that!**

U: Then, reaching for the cup, he told them:

**All: Take this, too, all of you
For this is the cup of my blood;
it binds us together
since we all share the blood of being human.
Truly, we are blood brothers and sisters.
So, it is a covenant between us.
It is the final covenant.
A covenant to dissolve the illusions of separation;
a covenant that opens your eyes
to the realization
that we are not separate from God;
that we are not separate from each other;
and that we are not separate from nature.
Whenever you celebrate this ritual,
remember that.**

Reader 7 PATRICIA M.

And so we acknowledge all of our relations.
We acknowledge the Stone People,
the first children of the rock we call Earth.
We acknowledge the Plant People,
whose intelligence invented photosynthesis and Earth-life.
We acknowledge the Wingéd People,
soaring in the vault of the sky, singing and searching.
We acknowledge the Finnéd People,
silently visiting the depths of the water world.
We acknowledge the 4-legged People,

who found the forests and the plains,
the wilderness and the desert,
and learned to be at peace in all those places.

And we acknowledge the 2-legged ones,
the human family which you joined through incarnation.
We are Black and Yellow,
we are Brown and White and Red.
We are the hues on the palette of your art-working.
We have learned to speak 7,000 languages
and each one can sing of your wonders.
Help us to awaken.

Through this realization,
under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
we offer you honor and glory,
forever and ever.

All: Amen

8

U: We thank you that we have gathered here as the Body of Christ;
May we be truly Eucharistic to one another.
Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

All:

O Birthing Father- Mother of the Cosmos
Focus your light within us - make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now-
through our fiery hearts and willing hands
Help us love beyond our ideals
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us: we then
feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us,
But free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire,
Returning light and sound to the cosmos.
May it be so!

9

U: Let us be the peace we wish to see in the world.
The peace of our God is with you always.
Let us share the gift of Peace with one another.

10

U: May we be who we are, the Body of Christ.

11

Communion

12

Communion Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qZ4u_2ZAlc

13

EARTHSONG

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour, The wind, it stirs.

The scorched earth cries out in vain:

O war and power, You blind and blur. The torn heart cries out in pain.

But music and singing Have been my refuge, And music and singing Shall be my light.

A light of song

Shining strong: Alleluia!

Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll Sing, Be, Live, See...

Peace.

Frank Ticheli

14

Final Blessing

U: Let's go in peace, in gratitude and in service to our world.

All: Amen

15

Final Song: Martin Follinger, Laudato Si

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfqyqcXmXmg>