

## **We Have A Beautiful Mother**

by Alice Walker

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her hills  
are buffaloes  
Her buffaloes  
hills.

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her oceans  
are wombs  
Her wombs  
oceans.

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her teeth  
the white stones  
at the edge  
of the water

the summer grasses  
her plentiful  
hair.

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her green lap  
immense  
Her brown embraces  
eternal  
Her blue body  
everything  
we know.



## **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
OF SAN JOSE

## **Our Relationship with Earth**

I believe in God only I spell it nature. – *Frank Lloyd Wright*

It come to me: that feeling of being part of everything, not  
separate at all. I knew that if I cut a tree, my arm would bleed ...  
-- *Alice Walker (from The Color Purple)*

The word stands for the body, but the symphony stands for the  
spirit. All of Creation is a symphony ... which is joy and  
jubilation. – *Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)*



**Preliminaries** Announce upcoming church events; get volunteers to light chalice and do reading.

**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
- Rev. Audrey W. Vincent  
*(all read italics)*

We light the chalice this morning for earth, our home. Earth abundant, source of what was before we were and will be after we are gone. As each cell proves our common destiny, may we know earth, our mother of old, as our friend; as we were bred of dust and stars, may we know her fate as ours.  
*Blessed is our bondedness to earth,  
Blessed is our bondedness to all of life,  
Blessed is our bondedness to the Source of life itself.*

**Check-in** Take a minute or two to share briefly the high and low points in your life since we last met.

**Reading**  
- Rev. Marge Keip (adapted)

As surely as we belong to this universe ... to this Earth. ... We belong together.  
We join here to transcend the isolated self,  
To reconnect, to come to know ourselves.  
To be at home, here on this Earth, on this planet,  
Sustained by the sun, awed by the stars,  
Linked with each other.  
Let us move into the silence together

**Sitting in Silence**

**Sharing/ Deep Listening**

**Reading**  
- Ingrid Tavkar is Social Responsibility Officer at Unitarian Headquarters in London

**Discussion**

**Singing**  
Hymnal #163

**Extinguishing the Chalice**  
- Angela Dierdorff Petro, member, Spokane UU Church

I do not see human beings as the ultimate crown of creation. Life forms do not constitute a pyramid with humans at the apex, but rather a circle where everything is connected and interdependent. We could not live without the rest of nature, but nature can carry on without us!

This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

For the earth forever turning; For the skies , for ev'ry sea;  
For our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills and pastures in their silent majesty;  
For the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons' harmony;  
For our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us birth;  
In our joy we sing returning home to our blue green hills of earth.

*(Join hands or link arms and read together.)*

As we stand here today, let us remember what came before,  
a church of earth, pine needles, trees, and open sky.  
Let us also be aware of who will come after.  
May we step lightly and leave a green footprint for those who follow.