

Preparation for G187 - Our Relationship with the Earth

Questions:

1. When do you most feel connected with the earth and its cycles? What are the particular place, situations or other triggers that make you feel a part of nature?
2. What makes you feel disconnected from nature? How might you reconnect?
3. Nature can be a support in times of trouble. The relationship with the earth can be a resource for coping. Think of ways that nature has consoled or strengthened you in the past.
4. How do you celebrate your place in the interdependent web? Do you make an altar; squeal for joy; give to the Sierra Club, dance, stand in awe, paint, ...?
5. Bring something that represents our relationship to earth and nature to add to the altar at your small group meeting.

Readings and poetry to ponder

*Prayer By Margaret Menamin,
Outdoor Writers Association of America 1967*

God give me stillness,
Give me time to stand
Unpressed by creeds and credits, undefiled
By dust of industry, and be a child
Reminded of my oneness with the land.
Let me stop running and be reconciled
To feel my feet send roots into the sand;
Let me put forth fresh blossoms from my hand.
Let me not lose my kinship with the wild.

And if I call this mine, remind me, God,
That it is only as my blood and bone
Are mine; not mine to waste, not mine to own,
But mine to be. I am the goldenrod,
The grain, the granite; I am stream and glen.
Remind me to preserve myself. Amen

Psalm 104 by Robyn Kermes

Contemplating the intricate wonderful web of creation,
I am touched by the sacred
to the depths of my soul.
The wind whispers to all the earth of the ever changing
changeless;
Fire and flame are the instruments of transformation.
Each element working together in the Dance of Life.
Clear cold springs gush forth in the valleys,
They burble up in the hidden places between the hills,
Giving drink to all the animals who live there.
The earth effortlessly brings forth food,
Wine to gladden the human heart, Oil to make the face
shine,
And bread to strengthen the body's limbs.
The circle of the seasons is marked by the moon's ebb
and flow;
The sun knows its time for setting,
completing the circle of the day.
Darkness comes round and it is night,
When all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
When the sun rises, they withdraw and rest.
May we learn to live our lives in harmony
with the energies and Rhythms embedded into the Earth,
That we may appreciate the glory of creation forever.