

Where earth is parched, and wells run dry
Where war brings want and children go hungry
Give us hands to heal and to plant.

Remind those who are captive to greed, waste and boredom,
and whose harvest is choked by produce that destroys well-being that:
we reap what we sow and
those who cause harm by mindless habits will also harm themselves.

There may be singing (Celtic Hymnbook No 207) and circling prayers

As the sun circles the world,
circle the land, O God.
Circle the soil and the elements above it,
keep harm without, keep good within.
Circle the crops, circle those who tend them,
keep ill without, keep health within.

Circle and bless the seeds ... (these may be named)
Circle and bless the fields ...
Circle and bless the tools ...
Circle and bless the work ... the digging and hoeing, weeding and watering,
feeding and harvesting ...
Circle and bless the workers ... keep them in good heart.
Circle and bless (for example) the orchards ... herb garden ...
May the sheaves and the greens come in abundance
Circle and bless the seas and rivers

Generous be our hearts, open be our hands.
Justice be our goal,
thanksgiving be our call.

SING

All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

A Blessing

Tend the earth
Bring forth fruits of good living
Go in the peace of Christ.

Amen

ROGATION PRAYER

Great Spirit, out of your love the universe was born. You have put in place all that is needed for growth and have trusted us to tend it.

SORRY

Let us God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency
And to have mercy on our wasteful lives and wasting earth:

You give this good earth
but we treat it with contempt.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You give this good earth
but we squander its finite resources.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You give this good earth
But we fail to share its bounty.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Song: Adam Are You? Celtic Hymn Book No. 1

THANKS

We thank you, Great Spirit, for the air of the eternal seeping through the physical. How precious is the soil that you have made. It is fertile and full of promise. A single seed planted in it can bring forth a hundred seeds.

We thank you for light, without which nothing would grow.

We thank you for water, without which plants would wither.

We thank you for air, without which all would die.

SCRIPTURE

We give you thanks for your ancient promise that while the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will
never cease (Genesis 8:22)

May creatures and crops grow into well-being.

Happy the people whose God is the Eternal Source.

May our stores be filled with worthy goods.

Happy the people whose God is the Eternal Source

May our streets be free from clamour and crime.

Happy the people whose God is the Eternal Source.

From Psalm 144

Help us to prepare a way for you

By our thoughtfulness towards the earth

By our care of crops

By our upholding of creation.

Show us how to reflect your rhythms in our life

By our tending and consuming cattle and crops with care

By our work to conserve the world's rich resources.

By giving all creatures their due respect.

Let us look at the soil, look at the seeds, look at what grows, look at the presence of God's Spirit in all of them.

Light of light

You are here.

Source of water

You are here.

Breath of life

You are here.

Silence

A Reading:

Be a gardener.

Dig a ditch toil and sweat and turn the earth upside down and seek the deepness and water the plants in time. Continue this labour and make sweet floods to run and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship. *Julian of Norwich*

Prayers of protection and circling

Generous God, winter's cleansing cold gave way to spring's gentle warmth, and now summer's sun offers to ripen what we have sown.

Protect this earth from unwelcome predators and untoward elements.

God of compassion, who accompanies your groaning creation from within,
have mercy upon the earth.

May all who work the land and sea recognise their dignity and be given dignity.

May all who extract fossil fuels, cut down forests and trawl oceans respect their worth and nature's patterns of renewal.

Bless the seas, rivers and reservoirs.

Teach us to conserve them wisely, use water sparingly, and share it generously.

May we, who are baptised in water, value every precious drop.