

## Song

### Earth: *Instrumental*

“The Earth does not belong to us.  
We belong to the Earth.”  
-Chief Seattle



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

**Be still and know that I am God!**

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

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Prayer Leader:

**Syndie Eardly**  
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**Renew · Refresh · Refocus**

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## **To Ponder**

### **Restore me to all of Creation**

**By Syndie Eardly**

The passage from Genesis in which God grants man dominion over all of creation presents a perplexing dilemma. It has too often been interpreted as granting man control over nature as if we are somehow separate from the earth.

A better interpretation of this passage points to stewardship, rather than subjugation. We are caretakers, and with that comes the obligation to be in relationship with the thing for which we care.

The first and most fundamental aspect of that relationship is that we ourselves are created out of the physical stuff of the earth. Our bodies are made up and sustained by earth, air and water; plant and animal life; insects and microbes.

The second aspect of this triune relationship is spiritual. All of creation is infused with Spirit in a way that constructs an indissoluble unity of life in God. We are not separate from this living planet, just as we are not separate from God's life in us.

The final aspect is our purpose, which is integral to this relationship. God calls us as stewards to honor all aspects of creation in a way that protects and sustains all of life on earth.

If we wish to experience unity with God, to find a lasting peace in the world, we cannot hold ourselves aloof from the rest of creation but must constantly seek ways to fulfill our purpose by living in harmony with all of life.

## **Reading**

### **Ojibway Prayer**

Grandfather, look at our brokenness.

We know that in all creation  
Only the human family  
Has strayed from the Sacred Way.

We know that we are the ones  
Who are divided  
And we are the ones  
Who must come back together  
To walk the Sacred Way.

Grandfather,  
Sacred One,  
Teach us love, compassion, and honor  
That we may heal the earth  
And heal each other.

### **Sharing...**

**a word...**

**a phrase...**

**a reflection...**