A New Earth
Earth Day, April 22, 2017

OUR COMMON HOME

(Place several stones – at least one for each person – on a table and arrange them in a circle. You may also want to have a candle or a bowl of water in the middle of the circle of stones. As guests enter, they are to pick up one of the stones and hold it in their hand during the prayer. Guests are invited to keep it for the day and remember the importance of Earth Day in the expanse of God's creation, and then at the end of the day return it to the ground.)

Leader: Opening Prayer

All praise to you, O Lord of all creation! You made the world, and it is yours alone. The planet Earth you spun in its location amid the stars, adorning heaven's dome. We lease Earth but for a life's duration. Yet for this life, it is our cherished home. With wondrous grace you clothed Earth in splendor. With teeming life you filled the seas and land. Instill in us a sense of awe and wonder when we behold the bounty of your hand. Then, when we hear the voice of bird or thunder, we hear the voice our faith can understand. To tend Earth is our entrusted duty. For Earth is ours to use and not abuse. O gracious Lord, true source of all resources, forgive our greed that wields destruction's sword. Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards while Earth gives glory to you, creation's Lord.

Reflections on the Holy Word. *(A reader slowly reads the passage, all enter into a contemplative silence for a few minutes, and the same reader reads the passage again. This process is used for the Hebrew Scriptures, Quran, and the Christian Scriptures.)*

Hebrew Scriptures

I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on Earth. (Genesis 9:9-10)

Silence

Quran

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The Earth is a Mosque." You can pray anywhere. The entire planet is meant to be a place for worship of its Creator. You can kneel down in awe and gratitude of Allah on grass, on sand, on a mountain, in a cornfield to worship. Therefore, the planet and its people deserve to be protected for its divine nature.

"O Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink; But waste not by excess, For Allah loveth not the wasters." (Qur'an, 7:31)

Silence

Christian Scriptures
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'" (Revelation 5:13)

Silence

Enjoy this 3 ½ minute video **Our Future (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YQIaOldDU8)**

Reader: The story is told of a congregation in Africa that has the following call and response.
The leader says: What did we used to believe?
And the people say, "That Jesus died for our sins!"
And the leader continues, "And what do we believe now?"
And the people say, "That Jesus died for **all** creation!"

Leader: What did we used to believe?
ALL: That Jesus died for our sins!
Leader: And what do we believe now?
ALL: That Jesus died for **all** creation!

Closing Prayer: Pledge of Commitment to Protect and Heal God's Creation
This Pledge of Commitment may be read in unison or in alternation

We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another. We have come to help protect God's creation.

We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest.

We have come to listen to the "music of the universe"- water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to reverence all creation.

Close with an appropriate song.

International Presentation Association