

Interfaith Earth Day Vigil at The Pond Central Park

April 22,2022

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**** Please read aloud in unison to raise our voices together ****



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ethical.nyc/EarthDayVigil2022

1. American Indian Community House Ben Geboe
2. Rabbi Judith Edelstein – Jewish Climate Action Network

Olam Chesed Yibaneh

Text:Psalm 89:3 M

Music and English : Menachem Creditor

עֲלֵם־חֶסֶד יִבְנֶה

Olam chesed yibaneh...yai dai dai
Olam chesed yibaneh...yai dai dai
Olam chesed yibaneh...yai dai dai
Olam chesed yibaneh...yai dai dai

I will build this world from love...yai dai dai
And you must build this world from love...yai dai dai
And if we build this world from love...yai dai dai
Then God will build this world from love...yai dai dai

3. Third Act & JCAN – M. Annenberg

Creator of the universe -
You gave us a paradise of cerulean skies and turquoise waters.
Magenta deserts and emerald forests

Coral reefs teeming with life, ice capped mountains.

We ask for forgiveness -
We have filled the air with carbon,
The oceans with acid
We have destroyed the biodiversity of life.

Our governments have failed us
They have no plan
So we must have a plan
The people must be heard.

Our children hope for deliverance
Show us the way to regeneration
How do we repair a world besieged by chemicals?
Show us the way to renew the Earth.

The time of the singing of the birds has come
Give us strength
Give us hope
Give us fortitude for the fight to come.

4. Earth Care, First Presbyterian Church @ 12th Street – Barbara Sherman

Isaiah 55:12

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The Talmud –

Do not be daunted
By the enormity of the world's grief
Do justly, now.
Have mercy, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated
To complete the work,
But neither are you free
To abandon it.

5. American Buddhist Study Center – Hoshina Seki

“If you know how to be happy with the wonders of life that are already there for you to enjoy, you don’t need to stress your mind and your body by striving harder and harder, and you don’t need to stress this planet by purchasing more and more stuff. The Earth belongs to our children. We have already borrowed too much from it, and the way things have been going, we’re not sure we’ll be able to give it back to them in decent shape. And who are our children, actually? They are us because they are our own continuation. So we’ve been shortchanging ourselves. Much of our modern way of life is permeated by mindless overborrowing. The more we borrow, the more we lose. That’s why we must wake up and see we don’t need to do that anymore. What’s already available in the here and now is plenty for us to be nourished and happy. Only that kind of insight will get us, each one of us, to stop engaging in the compulsive, self-sabotaging behaviors of our species. We need a collective awakening. One Buddha is not enough. All of us have to become Buddhas for our planet to have a chance. Fortunately, we have the power to wake up, to touch enlightenment from moment to moment, in our very own ordinary and, yes, busy lives. So let’s start right now.”

Thich Nhat Hanh

6. Beloved Earth, Riverside Church – Alan Bents-Letts Barbara Deming, “Spirit of Love,” 1984

Reader:
Spirit of love
That blows against our flesh

Sets it trembling
Moves across it as across grass
Erasing every boundary that we accept
And swings the doors of our lives wide—
This is a prayer I sing:
Save our perishing earth!

All:

**THIS IS A PRAYER I SING:
SAVE OUR PERISHING EARTH!**

Reader:

Spirit that cracks our single selves—
Eyes fall down eyes,
Hearts escape through the bars of our ribs
To dart into other bodies—
Save this earth!
The earth is perishing.
This is a prayer I sing.

All:

**THE EARTH IS PERISHING,
THIS IS A PRAYER I SING.**

Reader:

Spirit that hears each one of us,
Hears all that is—Listens, listens, hears us out—
Inspire us now!
Our own pulse beats in every stranger's throat,
And also there within the flowered ground beneath our feet,
And—teach us to listen!
We can hear it in water, in wood, and even in stone.
We are earth of this earth, and we are bone of its bone.
This is a prayer I sing, for we have forgotten this and so
The earth is perishing.

All:

**THIS IS A PRAYER I SING, FOR WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS AND SO
THE EARTH IS PERISHING**

9. Quaker, New York Friends in Unity with Nature – Janet Solderberg

*Divine Creator, Spirit in All Things,
Your Kingdom is Here, and Now.*

*Your creativity is manifest everywhere I look on this heavenly Earth.
Nourish us Body and Soul in this earthly Paradise.*

*Forgive us for not noticing, for overlooking, the tiny, the subtle,
The seemingly insignificant beauty in your Creation.
And teach us how to forgive those who would harm your Great Works.*

*Make our Loving attention constant.
Deliver us from Ingratitude.
For You are our perfect Guide through the Delights of our sacred Home.*

**10. Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York - Rev. Schuyler
Vogel, Senior Minister**

We have forgotten who we are.
We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos
We have become estranged from the movement of the earth
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.
We have sought only our own security
We have exploited simply for our own ends
We have distorted our knowledge
We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.
Now the land is barren

And the waters are poisoned
And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.
Now the forests are dying
And the creatures are disappearing
And the humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.
We ask forgiveness
We ask for the gift of remembering
We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.

~ U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

Closing : Seed Blessing, Dr. Nori Rost, New York Society for Ethical Culture

Gracious Earth, you open wide your hand and give of your goodness to all things living: Renew the face of the earth and increase the sustainable harvests of the world, that the land may bring forth enough for all living things.

Bountiful Nature: Protect and sustain the creatures of our local habitat. Increase their well-being, watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them.

Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, and the waters that fall from the sky, that this garden may flourish and bear good fruit; bless the sowing of the seed this year, grant fertility to the soil, protect the bees and butterflies that they may do their good work of continuing the life force on this, our home, our heart, our hope.

Mother Earth, we thank you for all you give to every living thing. Give us wisdom to take our rightful place in nature that we might heal and not harm.

THIRD ACT - Activating elders for the planet and democracy

Th!rd Act is an organization with a mission to engage people about 60 and older – “experienced Americans” – determined to change the world for the better. As “*experienced Americans*”, we understand that we have a lifetime of skills and resources to share. We muster political and economic power to move Washington and Wall Street towards a fairer, more sustainable and just society for the planet.



With many of us having worked to build the community that our kids, grandkids, and grandfriends enjoy today, we fear that the promise of the positive changes we saw earlier in our lives may now be dying, as the planet heats, inequality grows and the idea of true democracy is being questioned. We will support the great work of younger people and we make good trouble of our own! Visit us online at thirdact.org.