

Environmental Intercessions

There is much that we can learn from ancient spiritualities. Many ancient traditions begin their worship by casting or forming a circle, drawing in people and elements from the four directions. These environment centred intercessions reflect on the celebration of the Sabbath and the call to rest recalling the characteristics of each element and remembering those people for whom Sabbath is an unaffordable luxury.

As we celebrate Sabbath and we give thanks for all that is good in life we also remember those for whom Sabbath is a distant dream:

From the South we bring the glowing warmth of Fire...

[light red candle]

And in casting this circle of life we remember that fire can be used to warm and transform but also to devastate and destroy.

We remember all those caught up in the violence of warfare, the rape and plundering of communities, the disembodiment and destruction of lives.

Warm the earth with the Sabbath of your peace.

From the West we bring the refreshing flow of water...

[light candle in water]

And in casting the circle of life we remember that water can bring life and refreshment but can also bring flood and disease.

We remember all those whose lives have been swept away by tidal wave and flood and those for whom water is contaminated and disease ridden.

Refresh the earth with the Sabbath of clean, fresh water.

From the North we bring the growing fertility of earth...

[light stone candle]

And in casting this circle of life we remember that earth can be used to provide for communities but is also contested and barren.

We remember all those who are displaced or caught up in conflict over territory and all those who struggle to eke a living from the land.

Share out the earth and provide a Sabbath where all have enough to eat.

From the East we bring the invigorating rush of air...

[light oil burner]

And in casting this circle of life we remember that air sustains the breath of all that is living but can also choke and suffocate life.

We remember all those who live with the disease and deformity of air borne pollution, for communities whose future is sterile due to environmental destruction.

Rush though the earth and provide a Sabbath where humanity come together to care for the earth.

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