

## Living into Mystery: Hearing the Cry of the Earth

### **Gathering:**

*Sit quietly and sense the Divine Presence that is in and around you.  
Gaze at the image and the words and allow them to resonate in you.  
Breathe in the life of the universe ... breathe out love*



**'So the earth mourns and the heavens above turn black.' Jer 4:28**

### **CONTEXT**

The Josephite vision at this time:

### **LIVING INTO MYSTERY**

**"Attentive to the violence and beauty; the wonder and heartache, the desolation and radiance in ourselves and beyond. " (Srs of St Joseph 26th General Chapter )**

*"Every rock, every leaf, every insect has something beautiful, nay wonderful to tell.... A perfect fairy land of beauty will open to the gaze of every step. The flowers will unveil the hidden secrets of beauty; the stones reveal their crystalline structure, and the tiniest insect display wonders of mechanism... All new, all varied, all instructive, and all tending to raise the mind to higher and nobler conceptions of what creation does to declare the glory of its author."*

*(Julian Tenison Woods: 'Notes made in North Australia' Sydney Mail 1880)*

"Beneath the soil, carpeted by various flowers which herald forth the beauty of a world to come, are secrets which are known to us only in part. But these revelations, small as they are, stretch far beyond our comprehension. We learn that the dust we tread upon was once alive, that the rock on which we stand has lived and died - has been a thing of life, and is now a stone: and this is a time which reaches so far back as only to be understood by the One who was from eternity...and we are obliged... to confess that whether we search in earth, or sky or sea, we are everywhere met by the visions of the Illimitable." (Julian Tenison Woods: Geological Observation in South Australia 1862 )

Well – we all live in a house God made for us – this earth with its rivers and trees and mountains and oceans. And we cut down the trees for no good reason, and fill the rivers with sludge, and destroy through greed the fishing beds of the ocean and carve up the mountains to make roads for tourists who will give us money. We ruin the ecology of the world because of our frantic pursuit of the dollar note, which is in a sense the god of our civilisation. And we kill our fellow guests in wars, or let them starve to death while we stuff ourselves with mutton and pork and alcohol and ice cream. We are very bad guests indeed, unruly, destructive and parasitic. But God does not turf us out of the house made for us. Instead God suffers our presence out of love, and continues to shower us with gifts. I think it proper that human beings should try a little to imitate the hospitality of God.

(James K. Baxter, The Six Faces of Love)

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*'An integral ecology is ... made up of simple daily gestures which break the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness ... love overflowing with small gestures of mutual care ...'*

*Laudato Si 230/231*

How Precious the Smallest Life!  
The most fragile flower,  
the tiniest star.  
A tender hope for peace  
The treasure in our Heart.  
We are called to Reverence life.  
The Dignity of every one.  
Each one made in the Image of God  
– Compassionate Love.  
Wherever you are  
Whatever you do...  
Whoever you are...  
You are Called  
to relieve  
the suffering...  
to bring  
Hope.  
Live, simply live!  
Travel light!  
Make room in your hearts for all!  
This is our Call ...  
The Call of our God  
Present in our midst.  
(Song by Christina Neunzerling rsj)

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## BREAKING OPEN THE READINGS:

What particular aspects of creation arouse in me a joy and delight in the work of a creator God who creates and recreates with the power of love?

In what ways am I a nurturer and a healer of creation?

What is my biggest challenge as I strive to nourish and care for the earth?

What does this tell us about the interconnectedness, the beauty and fragility of planet earth?

To a large extent in western society we have lost this sense of the sacredness of creation- why do you think this is?

## RESPONDING: - prayers / own prayers/ music

- ♦ Let us honour the Divine Presence in our evolving creation  
*May we hear Earth's cry.*
- ♦ Let us be more aware of how we are damaging the Earth  
*May we hear Earth's cry.*
- ♦ Let us commit ourselves to the healing of the Earth  
*May we hear Earth's cry.*
- ♦ May we appreciate scientists and others who open our eyes to the wonders of creation  
*May we hear Earth's cry.*
- ♦ Let our local efforts to care for the Earth contribute to the life and sustainability of our world  
*May we hear Earth's cry.*

*Invitation to include other prayers ...*

Source of Life expand our minds to recognise your creative presence in the universe. We ask this in the name of our Creator God through Christ of the cosmos and the dancing Spirit. Amen.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS TODAY?

*Looking at PRAYER, FRIENDSHIP and SERVICE with new eyes...*

Sharing and living Josephite charism through hearing and responding to the cry of the Earth

Through new consciousness that we, along with all creation, live **in** the Earth rather than **on** it we are reawakened with a sense of awe and wonder.

We are aware of our interconnectedness, becoming attentive to the Earth's needs and responding in a sustainable way.

Ask each person to share the hopes they have to re-enliven a sense of wonder

- in our families?
- with friends?
- in our community?

## BLESSING:

Bless us with deep love  
For Earth as our home  
And for all life  
In our universe  
Amen

**Songs:** 'Call' (CD 'Josephite Dreaming' M.A.C. Copyright 2006 MacKillop Foundation. Australia.)  
'God of Our Island Home' 'We are Connected' Chris Skinner



"All the beauties of this world and the glories of the next are lost to those whose lives are out of harmony with the design of the Creator." (Julian Tenison Woods, Homily, 11 June 1881)

"God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life." (MM 1899)

"All created things give us ideas and glimpses of the beauty of the infinitely beautiful Creator" (MM 1881)

"Let us rejoice in the goodness of God who made the world so full of beauty." (Julian Tenison Woods)



### JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God's love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.

