



# “Listen to the Voices of the Indigenous Peoples”

*Music: Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu – Wiyathul (The performer, was a blind Australian Aboriginal man)*

Readings: let’s receive inspiration from indigenous wisdom

## Adaptation from a Speech by Chief Seattle - Suquamish and Duwamish chief (Native American – 19th century)



Every part of the earth is sacred –  
whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.  
The air is precious; for all of us share the same breath.  
This we know, the earth does not belong to us:  
we belong to the earth.  
This we know all things are connected;  
like the blood that unites one family.  
Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.  
For we did not weave the web of life:  
we are merely a strand in it.  
Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.

*From Psalm 8 (can be taken as refrain in between the readings)*

O God, how the majesty of your name fills the whole earth. I look up at those heavens,  
the work of your hands, the moon and stars which you have set in place.

## From Dadirri - Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr- Baumann - Indigenous Australian

Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and to wait.  
We do not hurry things up.  
We let them follow their natural courses – like the seasons.  
We watch the moon in each of its phases.  
We wait for the rain to fill our rivers  
and water the thirsty earth.  
When twilight comes, we prepare for night.  
At dawn we rise with the sun.



*From a letter from Clare Pratt – Feast of Philippine Duchesne 2002*

Another striking attitude of many indigenous people is their contemplative listening: to the earth, to silence, to the word of the other. It is a kind of “praying always”, a reciprocity with God. Some Australian Aboriginal people call it “Dadirri: an inner deep listening and quiet, a still awareness that recognizes the deep spring that is inside of us. We call on it and it calls to us...”

God, our Father, open  
our eyes to see your  
hand at work in the  
splendor of creation,  
in the beauty of  
human life. Touched  
by your hand our  
world is holy. Help us  
to cherish the gifts  
that surround us, to  
share your blessings  
with our brothers and  
sisters, and to  
experience the joy of  
life in your presence.  
Amen.



### Who is Mother Earth in Maori mythology?

Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. Maori believe that Papatuanuku, Mother Earth is someone who nurtures them and to whom they in turn owe important duties of care. In Maori mythology the elemental gods of the natural world are children of Mother Earth and stay close to their nursing mother.

From Chapter 1970

To contemplate his Heart, we have no need to turn away from this earth, the home of God made Man. Christ is present, hidden in the heart of the world. Earth could not hold him in death; he lives and the whole world of time and space is transfigured through his risen life. He is present in the unconscious waiting of creation in travail; his at work in the efforts of man to build a world of justice and brotherly love. It is in this very humanity whose fear and loneliness and love he shared that his GLORY must shine forth.

**Reflection - to what change of heart and mind do these reflections invite you/us?**

**Prayer - Psalm 104 - Response: *Blessed are you, God, in all your creation.***

You have set the earth firmly on its foundations and it will never be moved.  
You placed the ocean over it like a robe, and the water covered the mountains. R/  
You make springs flow in the valleys and waters run between the hills;  
They provide water for the wild animals; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. R/  
In the trees nearby the birds make their nests and sing. From heaven you  
send rain on the mountains and the earth is filled with your blessings. R/  
You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for us to use.  
You created the noon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set. R/  
God, you have made so many things! How wisely you made them all! R/  
The earth is filled with your creatures. May the glory of our God last forever,  
may our God be happy with what he has made. R/



**Blessing**

May the blessing of light be on you.  
May the blessing of rain be on you, the soft, sweet rain.  
May the blessings of the earth be on you, the great round earth.  
And may our God bless us and bless us kindly.

*Final hymn - [All you works of God - Marty Haugen](#)*

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