



## Our Ancient Ancestors shape life and community

### CONSIDER

For hundreds and thousands of years our ancestors were hunters and gatherers who lived lightly on the land and in deep connection with the Sacred present among them. As they moved into permanent settlements along rivers, they began to tame animals and control the land through agricultural production.

Our ancestors developed a rich cultural and religious life in their communities. They also began to develop an attitude towards earth that has carried forward to our time, and now reaches a different level with the development of advanced technologies. The price of this development can be detachment from earth, from its seasons, its weather patterns and daily rhythms.

### REFLECTION

Take time in a place that you call home, whether this be where you live, where you work, or wherever you are at this moment in time.

Sketch your place- its natural features, the people and events that you associate with it, the experiences that you have had there of the Sacred, of the Spirit present within all.

Acknowledge the traditional owners of our place and their deep connection to Spirit within all that is. Consider the night sky and meditate on the words of this song by Kathy Sherman.

*I am Beloved of the Universe,  
Friend of the stars, the stars know my name.  
I am beloved of the universe,  
One with the stars, the stars know my name.*

Image: "Earth with a Human Face" by Mary Southard, Courtesy of [www.ministryofhearts.org](http://www.ministryofhearts.org)  
Reflection material adapted from *Once upon a Universe in Story and Song*