

### 3 INDWELLING PRESENCE

*Acknowledge the indwelling presence of the Spirit in Earth and cosmos*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fc7A2ZLteso> (start at 4'50")

#### This Ancient Love (Carolyn McDade)

Long before the night was born from darkness  
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire  
Long before She wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills  
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside  
Long before a wing unfolded to wind  
Long before She wrapped her long blue arm around the sea  
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before a chain was forged from the hillside  
Long before a voice uttered freedom's cry  
Long before She wrapped her bleeding arms around a child  
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the name of a God was spoken  
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree  
Long before She laid her arms of colours 'cross the sky  
There was a love, this ancient love was born.

Wakeful our night, Slumbers our morning  
Stubborn the grass sowing green wounded hills  
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held  
This ancient love, this aching love rolls on.



## Key Concepts

- “The world is charged with the glory of God” (Hopkins, *God’s Grandeur*)
- God is creating continuously; The giver of life is a God of love
- Earth and cosmos reveal God and so we call them sacred
- Indwelling Spirit does not intervene in natural processes, but accompanies their unfolding
- God who is over and above all is also present and engaged with all that is. (panentheism) ; God is not identical with created reality (pantheism)
- Ecosystems are valuable in themselves and because the Spirit dwells in them; This is where we encounter God
- We need to develop a sacramental mindset

**Discussion:** An encounter with the Earth community can also be an encounter with God. Does this sit well with your experience?

How do we approach prayer from within this understanding of God’s continuous but not intervening presence?

## Reflection (13 mins) : Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffp7BdN2flw>

**Resource: Listen to this:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*, John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47gTydwGSv4>

For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies  
Over and around us lies  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise  
For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r  
Sun and Moon and stars of light  
Sun and Moon and stars of light  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise  
For the joy of human love (For the joy of love)  
Brother, sister, parent, child (Brother, sister,  
parent, child)  
Friends on earth (Friends on earth) and  
friends above (And friends above)  
For all gentle thoughts and mild (For all gentle  
thoughts and mild)  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn (Our joyful...

