

3 INDWELLING PRESENCE

Acknowledge the indwelling presence of the Spirit in Earth and cosmos

THIS BEAUTIFUL EARTH John Coleman

**This beautiful earth that our God has created
Is ours to be fed by and ours to sustain
This beautiful earth that hangs like a jewel
Is a gift from the one Lord, forever the same**

We need to take, the time to look around
We need to take, the time to sit down
And drink in the presence of God through creation
In a forest cathedral, with the mountain its spire **This beautiful earth**

A space for the heart to grow into stillness
Is a space for the heart, to open to God
A space for the words of our mouths to be silenced
And in the silence of God to be fed by the Word **This beautiful earth**

We must nurture the earth that nurtures its people
And treasure the earth and keep it from harm
We must nurture the mystery and not lose the wonder
Of a seed, of a forest, of a star of God's love **This beautiful earth**

John Coleman © 1992: <https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/this-beautiful-earth>



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

RESOURCES FOR PRINCIPLE 3

1 Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffp7BdNzflw>

P: God, the *Cosmic Dancer*, we honour you.

You who choreograph the solar flares, the orbits of the planets
and the wild careening of comets and meteors.

You who can name every ancient rock in the Asteroid Belt,
you who can tango with typhoons and twisters and tornadoes, we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Ultimate Artist*, we honour you.

You who paint sunrises and sunsets,
the plumage of birds and the camouflage of insects.

You, who with your finest brushes, watercolour the wings of butterflies and the costumes of
flowers, we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Sculptor*, we honour you.

You who chisel out rocks and mountain ranges,
and cup your hands to form sand dunes, we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Writer*, we honour you.

You who leave traces of your penmanship everywhere;
holographic ally concealing your entire Magnum Opus in every line of the text;

You whose mystical meaning is often misunderstood
by the scriptures of the world, scriptures in which Unity Consciousness is fragmented into
sectarian separation.

You who secreted, in the winking of a distant star,
the Rosetta Stone which would allow us
to translate every experience into a Christ-consciousness moment of 'Eureka',
we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Musician*, we honour you.
You who make flutes of the willows by the lakeside
and of the reeds on the river bank;
you whose bass-baritone reverberates in the thunder
and whose soprano trills in the morning music of the blackbird;
you who drum ecstatically with your raindrops on the sun-parched plains;
and you who hold all of these sounds in the silence of a star-studded night sky,
we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Mathematician*, we honour you.
You who love to play with binary codes
with base 4 and 6 and 8;
with rational numbers and with irrational numbers,
with real numbers and with imaginary numbers;
you who from nothing created the One
and from the One, created the partnership of the Two;
and from the Two created the Many;
and, then, from the Many, collapsed all, mystically, back to the One,
which vanishes into the womb of No-thing-ness awaiting rebirth, we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Physicist*, we honour you.
Quantum-leaping
from the impossible to the possible;
from the improbable to the probable;
and from the potential to the actual,
we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Biologist*, we honour you.
You who whirl ecstatically around your own image
in the double helix of life-making,
we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Architect*, we honour you.
You who silently whisper the secrets of home-building
in the hearts of weaver-birds and ants;
in the hearts of spiders and mice;
in the sacred geometry of the temple-makers
and in the wombs of mammal mothers,
we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: God, the *Awakener*, we honour you.
You who patiently call forth more and more complete images of Yourself,
until a species is born that remembers fully.
You who send avatars into every age to nudge religion towards spirituality
and to move us from mere belief-in-gods
to experiences of the God- within and the God-among-us.
You who are the Sender of Siddharta and the Commissioner of the Christ;
you who continue to send countless others to awaken us from illusion.
You who are the Gentle Mother watching
while the great crises of our times are understood for what they really are:
great opportunities for seeing beyond the separation into the Oneness
of Isness, our origin, our mission and our home, we honour you.

C: We honour you

P: Are you a creator God?

C: You are!

P: Do you design things intelligently?

C: You do!

P: Is it by evolution?

C: It is!

P: And so, since infinity is contained in a single grain of sand,
we choose bread and we choose the blood of the vine,
symbols offered us by the avatar, the God-man Jesus.
And, with altered vision, we see back into his lifetime as a carpenter-mystic
to the mystical core of his message, and beyond that into the purpose of his coming.
Even at the greatest crisis-time of that incarnation, on the night before he was cruelly killed,
even then, he could reach into the core of his own being, and, using the food of his last meal
with his friends, say:

A: Take this all of you and eat it.

**This is my body; the body which I accepted at my incarnation,
the body that I needed for my mission,
the body which is the visible sign of the Word made flesh.**

And you, also, have done the same.

Remember that!

P: Then, reaching for the cup, he told them:

A: Take this, too, all of you who would aspire to Christ consciousness.

For this is the cup of my blood;

it binds us together since we all share the blood of being human.

Truly, we are blood brothers and sisters.

So, it is a covenant between us. It is the final covenant.

A covenant to dissolve the illusions of separation;

a covenant that opens your eyes to the realization

that we are not separate from God;

that we are not separate from each other;

and that we are not separate from nature.

This remembering will take away the sin of living in a state of separation.

Whenever you celebrate this ritual,

remember that.

P: Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith.
*Here we will sing an appropriate consecration proclamation
to bring to awareness the Christ consciousness comes among us.*

P: God, You are the *Ocean* bathing in the waters of your own awareness;
we are the fish agreeing that we can feel the wetness
but demanding proof that the ocean exists
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: God, You are the *lamb* gambolling ecstatically
in the meadow of your own mindfulness;
we are the sheep peering jadedly through a prison-pen of our own making.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: God, You are the *forest*, a miracle of ecological cooperation.
You are the *oak tree* in the forest, a miracle of individual might.
You are a *single leaf* on the oak tree, a miracle of intricate skin-stretching.
You are a *cell* within that leaf, a reminder of how life was 4 billion years ago.
You are an *atom* within that cell, a reminder of how life was 13 billion years ago.
You are the *energy* within that atom, juggling a multitude of microcosms,
each one a hologram of the universe of Hubble.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: God, You are the *Hound of Heaven* following us down the years and down the days.
You are the *tiger* prowling patiently in the garden of your delights,
and we the prey who fearfully hide from the deadly embrace
of being consumed by the mystery.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: And so we acknowledge all of our relations.
We acknowledge the Stone People, the first children of the rock we call Earth.
We acknowledge the Plant People, whose intelligence invented photosynthesis and Earth-
life.
We acknowledge the Wingéd People, soaring in the vault of the sky, singing and searching.
We acknowledge the Finnéd People, silently visiting the depths of the water world.
We acknowledge the 4-legged People, who found the forests and the plains,
the wilderness and the desert, and learned to be at peace in all those places.
We acknowledge the 6-legged and the 8-legged, the most ubiquitous of us all,
investigating and inhabiting Gaia like nobody before or since.
We acknowledge the 100-legged and the 1,000-legged, the lowly ones,
taking forever to go nowhere because nowhere is where the present moment always is.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: And we acknowledge the 2-legged ones, the human family which you joined through
incarnation.
We are one family, but we are the twin energies of our race,
the feminine and the masculine, which are the two facets of your immanence.

We are the intrepid seekers who started in Africa and then discovered Asia and Europe,
America and Australia, the Arctic and the Antarctic.
And everywhere we travelled, we found your footprints.
We are Black and Yellow, we are Brown and White and Red.
We are the hues on the palette of your art-working.
We have learned to speak 7,000 languages and each one can sing of your wonders.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: We have followed the signs of your safari on Gaia, getting occasional glimpses of you
in our theologies, and having full-on encounters with you in our mystical moments.
We are Buddhists and Bahai,
we are Christians and Confucianists,
we are Jews and Jains,
we are Muslims and Zoroastrians,
we are Shintos and Shamanists,
we are Sufis and Sikhs,
we are Taoists and Hindus.
We are Seekers, sometimes sleepy seekers and sometimes awakened ones.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: We do not ask for signs anymore for we are surrounded by miracles.
Rather, we ask only that we come fully awake.
We ask that we become mindful of our true nature which is Buddha-nature;
that we become aware of our core essence, which is Christ-consciousness.
Help us to awaken.

C: Help us to awaken.

P: Through this realization, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
we offer you honour and glory, forever and ever.

C: Amen

