
Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process



CALL TO PRAYER

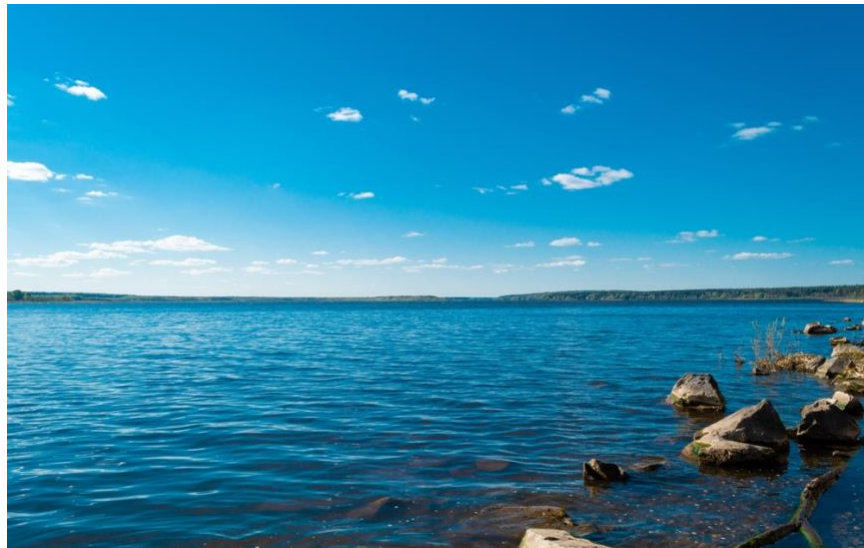
Let us recall the Presence of the Spirit of the Living God. The God who breathed across the waters and created all that we have ever known and loved.

May we hold in our awareness these “unprecedented times” and the effect extractivism and the climate crisis has on the poorest among us. Catherine once said that she would rather go hungry than have one of the little ones go without.

How is it that Earth, herself, the undisputed jewel of the Universe, became so diminished in the span of a few generations?

What do we do now that we know?

All I Do Today, Jan Novotka [click here](#)



CENTERING PRAYER

In Session Two, we centered ourselves in the story of a child who was recently born and how our decisions will impact her life. Let us bring our thoughts of the child back with us today...



“A Gift for the Future” by Rivera Sun [click here](#)

1. In these next few years, as the child in our story learns to crawl and speak, count, and walk, we can no longer delay. We are called to take immediate action. We must admit a climate emergency and demand a swift transition away from fossil fuels. It is urgent that we defund polluting industries and that we invent and deploy clean, renewable energies. So much of our habitual ways of living and producing and consuming needs conversion, from an overhaul of agricultural practices such as the application of fertilizers to a dismantling of petroleum-based products like plastics.

2. If we act to address the climate crisis with vision and conviction, then when this child becomes a grandmother, she will speak of our courage and sacrifice. She will tell her grandchildren about how everything changed during her younger years. She will share how she and many of her generation worked to restore ecosystems. She will describe how she saw upheavals, and yes, she will recall how the Earth became unstable... forests became deserts, the rivers and lakes dried up...and thousands died as pandemics grew more frequent. She will talk about how life as she knew seemed doomed, but she will also speak of how her ancestors joined together. They worked toward a future of hope and now she, as a grandmother cradles her grandchildren in a renewed world.

3. She will describe how the songbirds returned in vast flocks. She will relate how the whales rebounded in great proliferating pods, singing across the slowly cooling seas free of tons of plastics. As a grandmother, she will reminisce about how Earth gained back her many colors through global reforestation. She will smile as she recalls the fresh taste and smells of the local harvests. And she will recall with awe how the river streams returned full of life. She will speak of a hope that seems impossible to us today. She will thank those who have gone before her...the ones who made hope possible.



4. And that is what we can do with our lives right here and right now to bless this child and all the others entering the world today, tomorrow and the next day. We are called to take action for climate justice and to give the young ones, and the ones yet to be born, a gift unparalleled by any fairy godmother.

5. Will we choose joy or misery for this child? Will we choose life or death (Deut. 30:19)?

CLOSING PRAYER

Response: **May all I do today be for the healing of the whole. May all I do today, mend our broken world. May all I do today bring blessing upon the Earth. May all I do today be for the good of all. All I do today...** (Jan Novatka)