

A Prayer for Biodiversity During COP15

"All the trees of the forest sing for joy!"

(Adapted from Margie Abbott RSM, Cosmic Sparks, p. 38-39)

Reflection #1

"Here we can see how precious Earth is as the only living planet that we know, how profoundly it reveals mysteries of the divine, how carefully it should be tended, how great an evil it is to damage its basic life systems, to ruin its beauty and plunder its resources. For these things to be done by Christians or without significant Christian protest is a scandal of the primary order of magnitude."

(Thomas Berry, The Christian Future and the Fate of the Earth, 2009, p.29)

Recollection

*Background music: Hallelujah, Jessica Roemischer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4MWJ654vnk>
We will take a short break between each evocation.*

Leader: We live on a planet filled with Divine Presence,
quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the
rivers.

All: "All the trees of the forest sing for joy!" (Pause)

Leader: Mountain ash and eucalypts, quivering ferns and
glistening moss!

All: "All the trees of the forest sing for joy!" (Pause)



Leader: Green tree frogs and timid moths, ancient owls and swirling bats!

All: "All the trees of the forest sing for joy!" (Pause)

Leader: Forests, on behalf of all humanity, we lament thoughtlessness and greed; destruction and
pillaging; death of old growth giants and species breathing their last.

All: Aware of Great Mystery our hearts stir with pain and loss. (Pause)

Reflection #2

"Here we might propose that a viable future for the human community rests largely upon a new relationship between the human communities and the planet on which we dwell. We need to appreciate that both our physical and our spiritual survival depend on the visible world about us. We would have no inner life of mind, imagination or emotion without the wonder, the beauty and the intimacy offered us by the dawn and sunset, the singing birds and the cry of the wolf, by the meadows and all their flowers, by the grandeur of the mountains and the vastness of the sea."



(Thomas Berry, Earthsong Journal, 2001)

Final song

Hillsong United: So Will I (100 Billion X) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2U7ffUM5Ec>

To continue praying personally throughout the day, use these texts (from <https://bible.usccb.org/>):

Psalm 96

10 Declare among the nations: The LORD is king. The world will surely stand fast, never to be shaken.

He rules the peoples with fairness.

11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound;

12 let the plains be joyful and all that is in them. Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice

13 before the LORD who comes, who comes to govern the earth, To govern the world with justice and the peoples with faithfulness.

1 Chronicles 16

31 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let them say among the nations: The LORD is king.

32 Let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!

33 Then let all the trees of the forest exult before the LORD, who comes, who comes to rule the earth.

34 Give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose love endures forever.