

Prayers & Readings from April 28, 2019

Poetry from Chief Dan George (Tseil-Waututh, 1899 - 1981)

The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass, speaks to me.
The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky,
the rhythm of the sea, speaks to me.
The strength of the fire, the taste of salmon,
the trail of the sun, and the life that never goes away,
they speak to me. And my heart soars.

quotes from Chief Seattle (Duwamish, 1780-1866) and from Black Elk (Oglala Lakota Sioux, 1863-1950)

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.
I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop
of the world.
And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in
a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live
together like one being.
And I saw that the sacred hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as
daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all children of
one mother and one father.
And I saw that it was holy.

The Prayer of Jesus

Hattie C. Enos, Nez Perce

O Great Spirit,
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place,
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever You want done, let it also be done everywhere.
Give us Your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil.
For everything belongs to You.
Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

Prayer for Creation

American Indian prayer, author unknown, source: www.manataka.org

Great Spirit,

Give us hearts to understand

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give,
Never to destroy want only for the furtherance of greed,
Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty,
Never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion,
That to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty,
That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench,
That as we care for her she will care for us.

Give us hearts to understand

We have forgotten who we are.
We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, Whose dry lands thirst,

Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, Whose waters are choked with debris and pollution,

Help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, Whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse,

Help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, Whose creatures are being destroyed,

Help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption,

Help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Concluding Prayer

Chief White Eagle (Ponca, c. 1840–1914)

When you are in doubt, be still, and wait;

When doubt no longer exists for you, then, go forward with courage.

So long as mists envelop you, be still;

Be still until the sunlight pours through and dispels the mists, as it surely will.

Then, act with courage.