

April Chalice Circle: Care for Earth

UU Value: Interdependence

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice for the Earth,
Of which we all are part;
We pledge to care for what it needs
And hold it in our heart.

By Adena Dannouf

Check-in: Without crosstalk or interruption, briefly describe where you are in your life now, and notice what needs to be shared in order to be fully present in our circle.

Invite yourself to pause, let your breath release, find and feel the ground under you, let yourself yield into it. And then simply listen or listen and observe the images on the video.

“The Earth is My Lover” by Katarina Rain

<https://youtu.be/gc06fjyPNTY?si=b5ATj144CzTz73j>

“Remember” by Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star’s stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun’s birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother’s, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.

Reading 2

From Rainer Maria Rilke, from Letters to a Young Poet:

"If we surrendered to earth's intelligence, we could rise up rooted, like trees."

Reading 3

There are two kinds of power. One is power over, which is always destructive, and the other is power from within, which is a transcendent and creative power. - Starhawk

Questions to Consider

1. In what ways do you understand yourself as a part of Nature? In what ways do you cultivate this awareness?
2. Do you believe that Nature has intelligence? Share why or why not.
3. What are actions you have taken recently to care for the Earth? And/or what actions would you like manifest in your daily life as a way to care for the Earth?

Sitting in Silence: We will sit in silence for 3-5 minutes. Take this time to reflect on the readings, questions, and theme. Center yourself and consider what you want to share with the group.

Sharing/Deep Listening: Please share your own experiences and thoughts about the topic and readings with no crosstalk or interruption. Please ensure everyone gets an equal opportunity to share.

Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk: As time allows, after listening to others, do you have additional thoughts to share?

Checkout: What are you taking with you as you leave the circle? OR How can we support you in the month ahead?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

As we extinguish the flame of our chalice, I invite you to let your breath go, loosen any tension you are needlessly holding and let your Self yield into the support of the Earth. Remember the feeling of seeing the spark alight and of being in this time of connection. May it inspire each of us in thought and action until we meet again. - Victoria Day