

## Healing Earth Service

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### Honoring Earth Community

*The focus of this service is love and healing—within ourselves, in our congregations and communities, and for the whole Earth. New cosmologists Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme, and others believe that we are part of a “Great Story,” in which “consciousness permeates the whole of Creation” and we are all One. By telling this story, we begin to heal our relationship with Earth.*

*Unity Earth Care Northwest and ministries in the Northwest Region have performed variations of this service since 2003. Feel free to adjust the activities to meet your needs.*

### Preparation

Make up “modeling dough” ahead of time [see recipe at right]. Set chairs in a circle. In the center place a sacred altar, with a globe of the Earth and the ball of dough on it. You may invite participants ahead of time to bring precious earth objects and photos, and invite them to place them on the altar, either before or during the service.

### The Service

Begin the service with drumming, using a heartbeat pace. The drumming can begin slightly before the service starts.

After an opening prayer, give a short talk asking the question, “Who will take care of the earth?” This is a parallel to Myrtle Fillmore’s question, “Who will take care of the children?”

Again listen to the gentle beat of the drum.

Have several people read prayers for creation [such as those on the activity sheet *Daily Word Prayers*].

Sing or listen to “Amazing Grace,” then move into silent prayer.

Pass the ball of dough around the circle. Each person takes a piece of the dough and shapes it to represent what he or she needs to release to realize healing. Musicians may play quietly in the background.

While people are shaping their dough, talk about the community of Earth. Think about the fact that

planet Earth has existed for 4 billion years, and the universe for 13 billion years. Humankind has been here for only the last second of a cosmic day! All living beings on this planet—animals and plants, other people and nations—are our siblings. They have the same basic needs as we do: air, water and food; shelter, health and security.

Have everyone reshape their piece of dough into someone or something on the earth they care for. **Suggest:** a person, animal, place, nation, or state of consciousness, such as compassion or peace. Allow 7-8 minutes for people to make the shape, with drumming or other music in the background. Ask everyone to consider the shape they made.

Ask each person to re-form their dough into an egg shape. **Explain:** Whatever happened to this being before, we are putting it in an egg so it can be born whole and new. Have each person say: “I give my love to . . . (what they chose to care for).” Have people hold this thought as the dough is collected up again. To do this, one person starts by passing his or her egg to the next person. That person puts the two pieces of dough together and passes it on, until all the dough is one ball again. Place the ball on the altar.

Pass a globe of the Earth around the circle. People can hold or hug the globe while they say: “I give my love to . . .”

Hold hands and sing *Amazing Grace*, and close with prayer.

### Modeling Dough Recipe

1 cup white flour  
 ½ cup salt  
 2 tablespoons cream of tartar  
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
 1 cup water  
 food coloring

Put all ingredients in a pot on medium heat. Stir constantly until the mixture pulls away from the sides. Remove from heat and knead.

*If you have questions or want more information on how to conduct this service, please contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com).*