

"It's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep.
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the Planet was plundered?
what did you do when the Earth was unravelling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?
as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?
did you fill the streets with protest
when democracy was stolen?
what did you do
once
you
knew?..."

Excerpt from "Hieroglyphic Stairway" by Drew Dillinger

When great ships come back,
and come they will,
When they stand in the sky
all over the world,
candescent suns by day,
radiant cathedrals in the night
how shall we answer the question:

What have you done
With what was given you
What have you done with
the blue, beautiful world?

Theo Dargan
Guardian June 1st
Chosen by Carol Ann Duffy

"But we have only begun to love the earth.

We have only begun
to imagine the fullness of life.
How could we tire of hope?
-so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?
-we have only begun
to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision
how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,

not as oppressors.
Surely our river,
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of non being.
Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?
Not yet, not yet -
there is too much broken
that must be mended,
too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.
We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.
So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture
so much is in bud.
(Denise Levertov, "Beginners")

We join with the earth and with each other.

To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other.

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We joint with the earth and with each other.

To celebrate the seats
To rejoice into the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other.

To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children

We joint with the earth and with each other.

We join together as many and diverse expressions
of one loving mystery: for the healing of the
earth and the renewal of all life.

THE CRY FROM A WOUNDED PLANET

Sons and daughters of the Earth,
you who know good and evil:
Life is in danger! Show that you care!

DISCOVER THE WHOLENESS

The Earth is a tapestry woven without seams.
No-one has the right to tear it apart.

SENSE THE HOLINESS

A holy fragrance hovers over all that exists.
Life must be valued, protected and loved.

REJOICE IN THE BEAUTY

Creation has a wealth of its own.
Nothing is mere raw material.
The gifts of the Earth must be handled
with devotion and gratitude.

REMEMBER THE CONTEXT

Your life is woven into the pattern of all life on Earth.
All that you have is given to you in trust.
You must pass it all onto those who come after you.

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

Mother Earth has enough to meet the needs of all,
but not to satisfy their greed.
The gap between poor and rich
is contempt for human dignity.

LIVE IN RECONCILIATION

Sons and daughters of the Earth,
you who have the power to tear up her tapestry:
You are called to a life of reconciliation!