

**Easter Season Resources**  
**from the MN Conference UCC Global Partnerships Team**  
all adapted from *Gifts of Many Cultures*,  
Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, ed.  
United Church Press, 1995

*Earth Day falls on Good Friday this year. This "Earth Credo" was written by Elizabeth Tapia of the Philippines, a friend of the MN Conference's partnership with the Southeast Mindanao Jurisdiction of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.*

I believe in the sacredness of the earth,  
the integrity of the whole of creation  
and dignity of all people and creatures.  
I believe in a gracious God who created humankind -  
male and female -  
and gave them the responsibility to take care of the earth.  
I believe we human beings have failed God and ourselves.  
In the name of greed and development we have dominated the earth.  
The people and creatures destroyed the forest,  
polluted the air, river, and seas  
and have sacrificed the future of our children.  
We need to repent.

I believe that when we destroy the earth,  
we eventually destroy ourselves.  
We must preserve and protect the earth,  
not for our own survival but for the sake of our mother earth.  
I believe we need to change our values, lifestyle and ways of relating with creation.  
Repent, fast and pray.  
Consume less, waste not.  
Work for justice and peace.

We should not covet our neighbors' timber butterflies,  
white sand beaches,  
nearly extinct animal nor cheap labor.  
We should not oppress children, indigenous people, women,  
the homeless, refugees and victims of war.  
We need to live in the sense of people and creation.  
For I believe in the interwovenness of life.  
Creator and Creatures. Cosmic and Individual.  
West, North, East, South.  
Rest and Prayer.  
Food and Freedom. Theology and Ecology.

I therefore commit myself, together with you, to care for mother earth.  
To advocate for peace and justice.  
To chose and celebrate life.

These things I believe. Amen.

*This year, Easter Sunday falls on the same day as the UCC's annual celebration of PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) Sunday. These resources could be adapted for use on Easter as a Call to Worship and Prayers of Invocation or Intercession.*

In thy hand, we see the whole cosmos,  
Heaven and earth reflect the mystery of thy handiwork.

In thy hand, we see a little child,  
Men and women are recaptured by the event of Bethlehem.

In thy hand, we see the scar of the cross.  
Sin and death are vanquished by the suffering on Golgotha.

In thy hand, behold a new light,  
Day and night are transformed in the glory of Easter morning.

*Masao, Fumiko, Makoto, and Yukako Takenaka, Japan*

Leader: Risen Christ Jesus, rise from your dark tomb,  
Death could not hold you, you broke out as from a womb.

**Response: Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Light of the whole world, you leave no one in despair,  
Strengthen weak faith, that we with you great deeds may dare.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Chief Shepherd of us all, you gave your life for the lost.  
Help us guide the scattered; no careful counting of the cost.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Jesus, the joy of life, now begin your dance of bliss,  
The whole world rejoices, tune each heart to ways of peace.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Companion of the needy, always near to those who seek,  
Use us as your body to bind the wounds of the weak.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Head of God's new creation, every creature now is called  
To live in your freedom, men and women, young and old.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

Strong Hero of the lowly, may all oppressed find hope in you;  
Turn every life to loving, your cross for us is powerfully true.

*United Theological College, Bangalore, India*

Leader: Let us pray for the whole world, for which Jesus lived and died and rose again. In your mercy -

**Response: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for growing unity between the churches. In your mercy -

**Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray that this Easter may be a time of reconciliation  
for all who are estranged or at enmity with each other. In your mercy -

**Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who live in fear and doubt, that they may be comforted. In your mercy -

**Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray that by our words and in our lives  
we may be pointers to your living presence in the world. In your mercy -

**Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Source Unknown*

*Consider this hymn for your Easter celebration, from the New Century Hymnal:*

**I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives (#234).** *The editor's notes indicate it is a contemporary Filipino hymn incorporating a traditional folk song.*