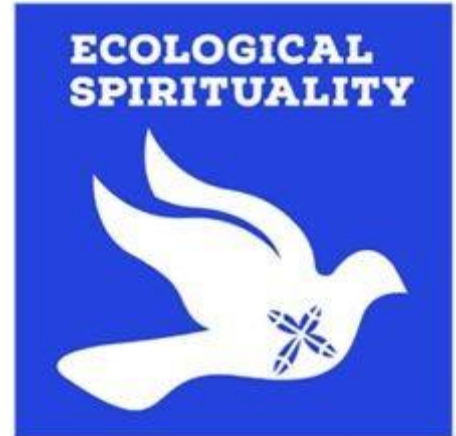


# Ecological Spirituality



## Goals:

- Education of Integral ecology to create awareness action and advocacy.
- Underlying all is our oneness with Holy Mother Earth and Cosmology.
- Stretch outdated theologies to embrace cosmological and ecological theologies through reflection, education and prayer.
- Mentor younger people in spiritual activism that engages an integral ecology approach.
- Provide group opportunities for Sisters, Cojourners, and community to talk about and share solastalgia and grief from seeing beloved places altered because of climate change or adaptation.
- Look to nature and natural systems during long-range planning.
- Encourage meditations and discussions about how the natural world engages with changes, with relinquishment, with diminishment. What can we learn from Creation itself? How can we be realistic about certain prospects, but also maintain faith and courage?
- Explore the role of Franciscanism in addressing adaptation as well as ecological depression and healing in this new era living in a warming planet where suffering and trauma are new norms.

## Actions:

- Consider nature activities.
- Provide cosmology and theological discussions.
- Reflect upon eco-grief from climate change disasters, extinciton of species, cultures and lands.

## Resources:

Joanna Macy with the Work that Reconnects Network reflects upon our climate crisis in spiritual terms coming from a Christian and Buddhist perspective. [Climate Crisis as a Spiritual Path \(workthatreconnects.org\)](https://workthatreconnects.org)

Our Worldviews must shift if we are to address foundational changes and these changes are related to spirituality. Here are several resources around a cosmological spirituality and the understanding of intimate link with religion and science. **Cosmologist Brian Swimme was a friend and colleague of the late Fr. Thomas Berry** and follower of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. His work is found at <https://storyoftheuniverse.org/>.

**Sister Ilia Delio the founder of [The Center for Christogenesis](https://christogenesis.org/)** offers important work. The Center for Christogenesis is a spiritual organization that serves an axial role in our time, bridging faith, science, culture, and community. The Center builds on the ideas of [Pierre Teilhard de Chardin](https://christogenesis.org/) and seeks to actualize his vision of emerging wholeness for a new vitality of the spirit. This is a holistic vision—integrating spirituality, science, and contemplation—and open to all faith traditions. <https://christogenesis.org/>

**The Earth, Our Original Monastery** offers inspirational and expanding artistic and prayerful work to help us move into a spirituality beyond human nature dualism. This 7-part film contemplative prayer series is based on seven poetic blessings written by Christine Valters Paintner inspired by her book *Earth, Our Original Monastery*.

[https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film\\_series/earth-our-original-monastery](https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film_series/earth-our-original-monastery).  
[www.abbeyofthearts.com](http://www.abbeyofthearts.com)

## Great Spirit Prayer

"Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,  
Whose breath gives life to all the world.  
Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom.  
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice  
Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.  
Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me.  
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf & rock.  
Help me seek pure thoughts & act with the intention of helping others.  
Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.  
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy - Myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.  
So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame."

*Origin Unknown*