



The Cosmos Within

Marian Center, Holyoke, Massachusetts

Opening Song: *Paint the Sky with Stars*, by Enya

Suddenly before my eyes
Hues of indigo arise
With them how my spirit sighs
Paint the sky with stars

Only night will ever know
Why the heavens never show
All the dreams there are to know
Paint the sky with stars

Night has brought to those who sleep
Only dreams they cannot keep
I have legends in the deep
Paint the sky with stars

Place a name upon the night
One to set your heart alight
And to make the darkness bright
Paint the sky with stars.

Who has paced the midnight sky?
So a spirit has to fly
As the heavens seem so far
Now who will paint the midnight star?

Opening Prayer: *Canticle of the Creatures* by St. Francis

Choir 1: All praise be yours, My Lord
through all that you have made.

Choir 2: And first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day...
How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Choir 1: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

Choir 2: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air...

Choir 1: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,
So useful, lowly, precious and pure.

Choir 2: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten up the night...

Choir 1: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us...and produces various fruits
With colored flowers and herbs...

Choir 1: Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
And serve him with great humility.

All: Amen

A Prayer for Our Earth, *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis

Choir 1: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Choir 2: Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Choir 1: Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Choir 2: We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

All: Amen



Recognition and Offering of the Gifts of the Cosmos

Each Person will announce their gift and bring it to the altar while the group reads the blessing:

All: Loving God, Creator of the Universe, we thank you for your gifts

Time: (All) The minutes and hours marked on this watch create the structure with which we travel the paths of our lives. Our Earth receives the great gift of the sun's release of energy from matter on its orbital path in the curve of spacetime.

All: For time and space created in the first 10^{-43} seconds after your worlds, "Let there be light!", we give thanks.

Hydrogen: (All) In these pints of water are 6×10^{25} hydrogen atoms, 100 times more than the number of stars in the known universe, whose quarks condensed from energy in the first millisecond of time.

All: For hydrogen and helium from the Big Bang, we give thanks.

Carbon: (All) Half of the substance of these wooden spoons is carbon made in the core of a sun-sized star and flung out as a planetary nebula into the cloud out of which the sun and Earth would form. A tree then formed the wood to make this spoon from the air.

All: For carbon and nitrogen from Planetary Nebulae, we give thanks.

Oxygen & Silicon: (All) The silicon of these glasses and 21% of the air within it were made in the life and explosion of a giant star that lived and died more than 5 billion years ago. The oxygen we breathe allows our bodies to change our food into energy as we participate in the continuing life of the universe and work of God.

All: For oxygen, silicon, and calcium from Type 2 Supernovae, we give thanks.

Iron: (All) The nickel in this coin and iron in the steel of this knife are from the thermonuclear explosion of a white dwarf star that surpassed 1.4 solar masses, further seeding the interstellar medium with heavy elements before the sun and Earth formed.

All: For iron, nickel, copper, and zinc from Type 1a Supernovae, we give thanks.

Gold: (All) More than five billion years ago, two neutron stars, the products of supernovae themselves, collided to create the gold of this ring and pin. Decorative, durable, and impossible to tarnish, gold is an important component in the satellites teaching us more about the cosmos and the Earth every day.

All: For silver, gold, and uranium from kilonovae, we give thanks.

All: Loving God of the universe, for all the gifts of the cosmos of which we are made and in which we live, move, and have our being, we are grateful. Bless us with continuing awareness of the giftedness of our lives and help us bless each other with the love you have given us. Amen



A Christian prayer in union with creation, Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this Earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!
Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the Earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.



Closing Song: *The Galaxy Song*, by Monty Python

Whenever life gets you down, Mrs. Brown,
And things seem hard or tough,
And people are stupid, obnoxious or daft,
And you feel that you've had quite enough,
Just remember that you're standing on a planet that's evolving

And revolving at 900 miles an hour.
It's orbiting at 19 miles a second, so it's reckoned,
The sun that is the source of all our power.
Now the sun, and you and me, and all the stars that we can see,
Are moving at a million miles a day,
In the outer spiral arm, at 40,000 miles an hour,
Of a galaxy we call the Milky Way.
Our galaxy itself contains a hundred billion stars;
It's a hundred thousand light-years side to side;
It bulges in the middle sixteen thousand light-years thick,
But out by us it's just three thousand light-years wide.
We're thirty thousand light-years from Galactic Central Point,
We go 'round every two hundred million years;
And our galaxy itself is one of millions of billions
In this amazing and expanding universe.
Our universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding,
In all of the directions it can whiz;
As fast as it can go, at the speed of light, you know,
Twelve million miles a minute and that's the fastest speed there is.
So remember, when you're feeling very small and insecure,
How amazingly unlikely is your birth;
And pray that there's intelligent life somewhere out in space,
'Cause there's buggers all down here on Earth!

**Let us embrace each other as gifts of the Cosmos
and go forth in Joy!**



<https://omegacenter.info/response-to-new-cosmic-story/>