



ESC Jan 8, 2013

Welcome to our NC Interfaith Power & Light Earth Sabbath Celebration tonight. I'm Nancy Carnes, and I will be facilitating these celebrations the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Earth Sabbath Celebrations are one of North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light's (NCIPL) four programs. Our intention is for this to be an interfaith celebration that provides those of us who love the earth with a place for connection, sharing and replenishing our spirits.

We as a staff and team of volunteers try to create an interfaith space at each service. You are invited and encouraged to share your gifts and creativity in helping this Earth Sabbath Celebration to evolve. If you feel moved to contribute in any way, let me know!

I'm glad that each of you is here tonight.

Theme: **The Earth's New Year's Resolutions, Hopes & Dreams for 2103**

And I mean this in the sense that Thomas Berry wrote his book, *The Dream of Earth*. It is not just our dream about Earth, it is Earth's dream. So just as we have our own personal New Year's Resolutions, Hopes and Dreams for 2013, so does the Earth. But how can we know them?

It is important to remember that we are not separate from the Earth. We are the Earth. As Thomas Berry points out, the universe is the context for everything else. It includes the human consciousness, thoughts, emotions, social forms and rituals. The human is the communion of the universe become conscious of itself. We are the universe, we are the Earth in human form. We are just not used to thinking of ourselves and the universe this way.

### **7 – 7:30 Community Building exercise to help us connect with each other and the universe Celebration**

Thomas Berry concludes, "In accord with indigenous modes of thinking throughout the world we might give a certain emphasis to the need to understand the universe primarily as celebration. While the universe celebrates itself in every mode of being, the human might be identified as that being in whom the universe celebrates itself and its numinous origins in a special mode of conscious self-awareness." GW p 19

Groups. In the next (*7:25 pm minus #groupsX3 minutes*), introduce yourselves and create a 3 minute celebration of the universe. You can use any of the materials on the altar or create your own from supplies. Any questions?

Present 3 minute celebrations.

7:25 pm. Personal check in (sharing Earth's joys and concerns and upcoming events later in program)

### **INVOCATION**

Have 6 volunteers ring bell and then read Earth's timeline in order

Then, let us take 3 minutes of silence – we ask for wisdom.

Thank you.

Any thoughts about the reading or anything you'd like to share from our time in silence?

Now, I'd like to ask a series of questions to stimulate discussion. We'll capture our inspirations on this flipchart.

*How will we listen to Earth in 2013?*

*What practices do we need to start/sustain to help us listen in 2013?*

*How do we help others listen in 2013?*

*What are the major tasks needed for the Earth for 2013?*

*What can we do to address these major tasks in 2013?*

*What are the hopes for 2013?*

*What can we do to increase hope in 2013?*

*What are possible dreams for 2013?*

*What can we do to make these dreams happen in 2013?*

8:10 Wrap Up

8:15 Sharing Earth's Joys and Concerns, Upcoming Events

8:20 Ending celebration of Earth for 2013

We'll each cut out an inspiration from the flip chart, and loving state it and then put it on the altar

8:25 Commissioning

**Game Instruction – comes with materials**

Any questions?

7:45 pm

Let's start!

8:15 pm – warning, ending game in 5 minutes

8:20 – end game, debrief

8:27

Chant commissioning

8:30