



We Don't Live on the Moon: Let's Revel in Spring

Welcome to our NC Interfaith Power & Light Earth Sabbath Celebration tonight. I'm Nancy Carnes, and I will be facilitating these celebrations each 2nd Tuesday of the 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 environmental activists with a place for spiritual rejuvenation.

We as a staff and team of volunteers try to create an interfaith space at each service. You as a member of an Earth Sabbath Celebration are invited and encouraged to help determine how your local Celebration achieves this objective. If you are interested in that conversation or just conversation in general, we invite you to tea, which we are starting after the next month's celebration.

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

Theme: We Don't Live on the Moon: Let's Revel in Spring

Community Building:

Our community building exercise tonight is based on photosynthesis. Albert is going to read 2 brief paragraphs on what Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker have to say about photosynthesis in [The Journey of the Universe](#):

"To commune may be one of the deepest tendencies in the universe.

"Our planet is a riot of such communion, beginning with its gravitational relationship with the Sun. Earth has been revolving around the Sun for over four and a half billion years, and this is now a profoundly stable relationship. But the universe is not satisfied with stability alone. Over four and a half billion years, Earth has moved toward ever-greater complexity and interconnectedness.

"After the emergence of life itself, one of the most stunning manifestations of this deepening communion is that of photosynthesis. The key construction, requiring perhaps tens of millions of years, was a molecular assembly capable of an elegant resonance with sunlight. Like tuning forks shaped to vibrate in the presence of certain sorts of music, these special molecules, called chlorophyll, glow with energy when the light from our Sun falls upon them."

We're going to try to tune into this strange music.

carbon dioxide + water + light energy → carbohydrate + oxygen + water

Give out eggs with carbon dioxide, water and light energy on them. People circulate, forming groups of three. Tell your name, then tell what you are. Each group that has CO₂, water, and

light energy, gets a carbohydrate for each person in the group. We'll then ring the chime and everyone should recirculate and form a different group.

Our goal is to see how many carbohydrates we can generate.

Well, it's fun playing with photosynthesis. And working for peanuts. Our work should be our play.

Check in: Anything significant that's happened for anyone in the past month that anyone wants to share.

Invocation: (Albert)

"We should be clear about what happens when we destroy the living forms of this planet. The first consequence is that we destroy modes of divine presence. If we have a wonderful sense of the divine, it is because we live amid such awesome magnificence. If we have refinement of emotion and sensitivity, it is because of the delicacy, the fragrance, and indescribable beauty of song and music. If we grow in our life vigor, it is because the earthly community challenges us, forces us to struggle to survive, but in the end reveals itself as a benign providence.

"If we have powers of imagination, these are activated by the magic display of color and sound, of form and movement, such as we observe in the clouds of the sky, the trees and bushes and flowers, the waters and the wind, the singing birds, and the movement of the great blue whale through the sea. If we have words with which to speak and think and commune, words for the inner experience of the divine, words for the intimacies of life; if we have words for telling stories to our children, words with which we can sing, it is again because of the impressions we have received from the variety of beings around us.

"If we lived on the moon, our mind and emotions, our speech, our imagination, our sense of the divine would all reflect the desolation of the lunar landscape."

– Thomas Berry, The Dream of Earth

Centering Meditation: Capturing the Sun's Energy

The sun's energy reaching the surface of Earth is 1000 watts per square meter
Or globally, 400 trillion trillion watts per second, the equivalent a trillion 1 megaton bombs! In one second, our sun produces enough energy for almost 500,000 years of the current needs of our so-called civilization.

All of this energy also reaches the moon. But the moon and the Earth are so different!

One reason the Earth is so different was the invention of cells which can capture the sun's energy and use it. Plants and trees now capture and utilize the sun's energy. And we do, too – did you know that we owe our ability to see from the evolution of the earliest photosynthetic cells – our retina consists of evolved photocells. All Earthlings have had a marvelous long, deeply intimate, deeply creative relationship with the sun.

Meditation involves being receptive. Let's sit in silence for 2 – 3 minutes and be receptive to the miracle of life, which has evolved out of the dance of the Earth with the Sun.

Song:

We Don't Live on the Moon

Hush, hear the wind and the birds in the trees.
Scent of flowers, breath of wind, hum of bees.
See the blossoms, sun on water, green of leaves.
We owe all our art to such as these.

Dances of Universal Peace: Greening with Life

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Let's take a few minutes to lift up our passions and mission as people of faith for the Earth. If you wish to share something, please stand and after you finish sharing, we will all respond, "We hold you in our hearts."

For the unspoken joys and concerns, we hold them in our hearts.

To Our Common Cause	4 min
Song	3 min
Commissioning	2 min
Ending blessing	4 min

On your way out, please remember to sign in if you are new to NCIPL and also consider making a donation so that this service, and all of our programs, can remain possible. Thank you for coming!

