



## **Atawhaingia a Papatūānuku Mercy to Earth**

### **Prayer for the Season on Creation**

#### **Preparation**

*This prayer acknowledges the 4 directions of Earth.*

*Symbols for the prayer centre are:*

*bowl of water for the West – water;*

*candle for North – fire;*

*feathers or bubbles for East – air;*

*and plant, soil or rocks for South – Earth.*

*Each symbol represents a compass direction and an element of Earth,  
and can be placed on the circle facing its direction;  
eg bowl of water is placed on west side of prayer focus ...*

*As a prayer/reflection is read for each element, a child moves quietly forward  
and holds up the symbol for all to see. When reading is finished, the symbol  
is replaced on prayer focus and child returns to their place.*

*After each element, all sing Holy Ground by Monica Brown.*

*Run through song before ritual starts, and if necessary,  
explain when it will be sung.*

*Invite children to sit in circle around prayer focus.*

#### **PRAYER TIME**

**Leader:**

**Blessing:**

In the name of God the creator, Jesus who shows us the way to love and peace,  
and the Spirit who breathes through all things.

Amen.

Today we are remembering our planet Earth, our home. Pope Francis encourages us  
to show mercy to our common home, the home we share with so many forms of life.

As we see each symbol held up, let's listen carefully to the readers.



### **Voice 1**

We remember the gift of te WAI – WATER.  
We use water in so many ways. We drink it, wash in it, and play in it.  
Rain waters the earth and all plants.  
Water in rivers and oceans give life to many creatures, fish, whales, eels, sea plants.

ALL: WE THANK YOU GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

Waiata: Holy Ground

### **Voice 2**

We remember the gift of te AHI – FIRE.  
Fire gives light and warmth.  
The greatest fire, the sun, helps us to see clearly;  
gives us daytime.  
It helps us to know the difference between shade and light, warmth and cold.

ALL: WE THANK YOU GOD FOR THE GIFT OF FIRE.

Waiata: Holy Ground

### **Voice 3**

We remember the gift of te HAU – AIR.  
Air is all around us. We can't see it, or feel it, but we know it's there.  
Clean air gives us oxygen – gives us life.  
All plants and animals need air to breathe.

ALL: WE THANK YOU GOD FOR THE GIFT OF TE HAU – AIR.

Waiata: Holy Ground

### **Voice 4**

We remember the gift of Papatūānuku – Earth.  
Earth holds us, feeds us, clothes us.  
Earth holds all life – animals, plants, insects ...

ALL: WE THANK YOU GOD FOR THE GIFT OF Papatūānuku – Earth.

Waiata: Holy Ground

Pray together He karakia ki a Papatūānuku,  
Prayer for our Earth in Prayer Resources on [mercyschools website](http://mercyschools.com).

### **Leader:**

### **Blessing:**

In the name of God the creator,  
Jesus who shows us the way to love and peace,  
and the Spirit who breathes through all things.

Amen.

