

THE
VOICE
OF
NATURE

COMPILED BY
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A COLLECTION OF BLESSINGS,
READINGS, AND SONGS ROOTED IN
NATURE



Thank You & Thoughts



This booklet is dedicated to all those in Scouting who follow alternative belief paths and to those who support us.

To my Woodbadge Patrol and Guide: Lisa, Scott, Richard, Mily, and Anthony.

It is intimidating to propose a project that doesn't follow the traditions of an established organization. All of you embraced this ticket idea and gave me the courage and confidence to complete it.

I'm struggling to find the words of gratitude I feel for the enthusiasm you expressed and support you showed in this project. Thank you, fellow Owls.

A special thank you to Scott who named the booklet "The Voice of Nature".

And, of course, Lisa is Awesome!!!

This is a living document and should be modified regularly to fit the needs and aims of those using it.

As always, feedback is a gift. I look forward to the community's suggestions for edits and additions.

In this booklet, you will find expressions of gratitude and reverence rooted in nature.

Meal blessings and Scouts Own services, that include prayers, readings, and meditations, are common activities in many troops, councils, and camps.

However, there are a growing number of Scouts and Scouters who are uncomfortable with the traditional Judeo-Christian prayers, scriptures, and songs.

This collection was created to support Scouts and Scouters of non-traditional faiths and beliefs to fully participate in all aspects of Scouting.

Everyone should feel welcome and represented in Scouting -- and all voices should be heard.

Meal Blessings



Garden, pasture, seed, and brood,
Bless us with this gift of food.

We are grateful for this food,
the hands that prepared it,
and for this good company.

For the sun and rain,
For the grass and grain,
For all who toil on sea and soil
That we may eat this daily food
We give our thanks

Thanks to the earth for the soil.
Thanks to the sky for the rains.
Thanks to the farmers for the harvest.
Thanks to our friends for the good company.

Dear Earth, who gives to us this food,
Dear Sun, who makes it ripe and good,
Sun above and Earth below,
Our loving thanks to You we show.
Blessings on our meal.

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world



Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Ooh, yes

Let There be Peace On Earth ...a secular version

Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that we long to see!

With Earth as our mother, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now

With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

Songs



What a Wonderful World

by Louis Armstrong

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
I love you

For what we are about to receive,
Let us be truly thankful.
To those who planted the crops,
To those who cultivated the fields, and
To those who gathered the harvest.

We give thanks to the plants and animals
that gave their lives for this meal,
that our own lives might be sustained.
May this meal strengthen each of us.
May this meal nourish each of us.
May this meal give each of us the energy to do what
needs to be done.



Scout Grace

Let us be thankful for the food and drinks we are about to receive before us.

Let us be thankful for the shelter that protects us while we sleep at night.

Let us be thankful for the water that rejuvenates our mind, body & soul.

Let us be thankful for the earth we walk on and the air we breathe.

Let us be thankful for the fire that keeps us warm and gives us light.

Let us be thankful for the natural surroundings that give the earth beauty and life.

Let us be thankful for the family and friends that are helpful when we need them the most.

Let us be thankful for the staff and leaders that lead us on our way.

May it be so.

My tummy's a-rumblin'
So I'll stop this mumblin'
Let's eat!

The call of the wild is in my soul,
A song, a whisper, making me whole,
So I must go as I'm told,
To chase the stars before I'm old.

Daily Prayer

by Rev. James Dillard

I call out to the powers of land
To the two legged and four legged
To those who crawl, dwell, and stand upon the land
I ask for your strength and wisdom today.

I call out to the powers of water
to the fishes and creatures of the sea
to those who swim, crawl, and frolic in the water
I ask for your strength and wisdom today.

I call out to the powers of air
to the winged riders of the wind
to those who fly, buzz, and glide in the sky
I ask for your strength and wisdom today.

To the spirits of land, sea, and sky I praise thee.
I am a child of the stars, the moon, the sun, and the earth
I ask that you bless me and walk with me this day
May I dance to the rhythm of the song of life.

The Wild

by Ebony Black

I am a bird flying high and free,
A sleek grey dolphin in a shimmering sea,
A tawny lion with long sharp claws,
And a stealthy crocodile with powerful jaws.

I am the rain falling from the sky,
A bolt of lightning, never shy,
A rumbling earthquake way down deep,
And a crescendo of wind stopping you sleep.

I am a horse, hooves pounding the ground,
A streak of red, paws not making a sound,
A tiger hunched down, stalking its prey,
And a gentle cow, asleep in the hay.

I am the fire they try so hard to tame,
A tiny spark to a roaring flame,
A dozen waves crashing on the shore,
And an unknown beast on the ocean floor.

I am the cry of the wolf to the moon,
A ripple of heat in the month of June,
A swirl of blossoms falling from the tree,
And a soaring eagle's mournful scree.

I am a river in a far-off land,
A plethora of pebbles in a bed of sand,
A jagged mountain standing tall,
And an expanse of snow poised to fall.

Opening Blessings



Let us be willing to see the big picture in all things,
act in accordance with our best, most ethical selves,
and grant the benefit of the doubt to all those we meet.

A Universal Prayer

To the universe, to God, or from humankind to
humankind, we pray...

May we know wellness and the easing of pain.
May we have hope in the light and also in the dark.
May we have courage to face the sunrise each morning,
And may we find solace, even joy, in the small and the
fleeting;

In the things that are lovely but often overlooked,
Whose sum is a beautiful world.
May we know peace of mind and peace of heart.
May we have wisdom for the crossroads, for choices
that are hard.

May our homes be filled with love, laughter and
friendship,
And when our minds are breaking and our legs are weak,
May the kindness of others lift us, and hold us in the
storm,
As they carry us through to a calmer shore.

We gather here, in this time and space,
Our hearts and thoughts to interlace.
With kindness we will reverent be,
as we give thanks to earth, sky, and sea.
For all we have and ever will,
comes to us from the land we till.
From the sun and moon that light our way,
to the oceans, lakes, and rivers
near and far away.



A Woodland Walk

by Rev. Ian Corrigan

Tree and Stone, and Bone and Root
Stream and wind and tread of boot
Mortal Flesh and Spirit, I
Walk the land beneath the sky

Ask for welcome from the kin
Of this place that I walk in
Verses offered, this I say
With respect I tread your ways

Keep safe the path on which I go
From Predator or fall or foe
To pass in peace in nature's hand
As I walk upon this land.

Hawaiian Indigenous Blessing

Let us give thanks for the world around us.
Thanks for all the creatures, stones and plants
Let us learn their lessons and seek their truths,
So that their path might be ours,
And we might live in harmony, a better life.

May the Earth continue to live,
May the heavens above continue to live,
May the rains continue to dampen the land,
May the wet forests continue to grow,
Then the flowers shall bloom
And we people shall live again.

A Blessing of Kinship with the Earth

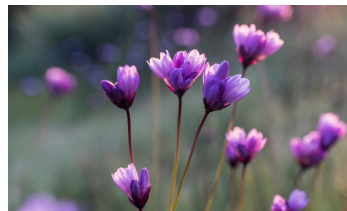
by Jack Campbell

May you know the Earth as you know a friend,
Supporting your path with its green grace,
Inspiring you to pick up the pace □
Then slowing you to the beauty of the place.

May you know the Earth as you know a friend,
An ear who will listen and share your fears,
And offer a warm embrace to dry your tears,
One to love you and yours all your years.

May you know the Earth as you know a friend,
And may you have great success
In cleaning up all this mess.
For a friend, can we do any less?

May you know the Earth as you know a friend,
There in the beginning. □ There in the end.
No matter where you are or where you've been,
May it receive you well at your journey's end.



Closing Blessings



We thank our leaders and our friends
for all the good times we got to spend
together, here in this place.
We offer up our grateful praise.

We thank the earth.
We thank the seas.
We thank the sky.
We thank the trees.
For all our blessings large and small,
For all our friends within these walls.
May you go in safety and peace,
home to family, with gratitude increased.

This day brings an opportunity
To learn, to grow, and to succeed.
Let wisdom guide our thoughts
While integrity guides our actions,
As we venture out into the world around us.

Irish Farewell

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
Until we meet again.

Readings & Meditations



Druid's Peace Blessing

Deep within the still center of my being
May I find peace.
Silently within the quiet of the grove
May I share peace.
Gently within the greater circle of all life
May I radiate peace.

Trees are My Church

Trees are the growing pillars
To the cathedral of my soul;
Their canopy the soaring roof,
The sacred groves the quiet nave.

The spaces between their trunks
Are the stained glass windows,
Filtering the sunlight through the leaves,
Illuminating the places my soul will dance.

Come sing with me among them,
Unfettered by care or fear.
The forest is full of secret altars
Where old gods may hear our prayers.

I Go to the Church of Trees

by Arthur Hinds

I go to the church of trees.
Moss covered pews, and bird song hymns awaken me to
the unheard.
My fingers trace the oak bark texts, and sing a sylvan
parable
Closing my eyes I see the swirling verdant powers
empirical.
and so I alone am not alone, but in all is oneness miracle.

I go to the church of trees
Beneath my feet, between my toes, the bracken paints
nature's omnipotence.
circling my head, arboreal Gods, in spires dance their
Immanence.
Opening eyes, I feel inside the ancients' voices in
resonance
And they so, in kind, are of my kind, divinity's song in
residence.

I go to the church of trees
I am the Ash. I, the Oakwood, ever hallowing, and all
discerning
Elder, I claim. Alder, my name, with Hazel's wisdom yet
burning.
Sight without eyes, Mistletoe I, a liminal caress's
yearning
A sacred bowl, my soul is made whole. I am, to the
world, returning

I go to the church of trees.