

Earth

South

Winter

Strength

EARTH LAMENT

“Here we can see how precious Earth is as the only living planet that we know, how profoundly it reveals mysteries of the divine, how carefully it should be tended, how great an evil it is to damage its basic life systems, to ruin its beauty and plunder its resources. For these things to be done by Christians or without significant Christian protest is a scandal of the primary order of magnitude.” (Thomas Berry 2009: 29)

Song: *In the Name of all that is* Jan Novotka streaming Apple Music and Spotify.

This is a group ritual. Prepare and make available two large sheets of paper and textas.

Begin with three minutes of contemplative silence followed by Acknowledgment of Country.

Leader: In the centre of the paper is the word HOPE and you are now invited to write around the word HOPE ways that life systems are being damaged; beauty ruined and resources plundered.

Leader: On another sheet write the words ACTIVE HOPE and write around the words ways that people and groups are working to create a sustainable and healthy planet

Leader: Let us now circle around these words as we sing *In the Name of All that Is*.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the stars and galaxies; in the name of the planets, moons and the sun; in the name of all that is we come.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the ocean and the sea; in the name of the mountain, desert and plain; in the name of all that is we come.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the buffalo and bear; in the name of the turtle, eagle and whale; in the name of all that is we come.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the cactus and the fern; in the name of the flower, tree and the herb; in the name of all that is we come.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the elements of life; in the name of the soil, water and air; in the name of all that is we come.

In the name of all that is we come together. In the name of the children of earth; in the name of the Spirit breathing in all things; in the name of all that is we come.

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All: In the name of all that is we come together and lament the loss of hope and the ruining of earth's beauty, the plundering of her resources, and the abuse of her life systems. We live in active hope for a healthy future.

Conclude with one minute of contemplative silence.