

In-Gathering Service Ideas

This In-Gathering Service is a guide from the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC). Local women's groups and churches are encouraged to choose hymns and different ways of connecting (for example, dramatization, a message, presentations, small group discussions, etc.). This service includes room for different leaders and voices to increase participation.

This year's theme is inspired by the upcoming Circle of Prayer vol. 27's theme, ***Heal Our Selves, Heal Our World***. Healing ourselves and healing God's earth are our calling as creatures in God's image. No doubt, our Earth is in peril. And we are called to do justice and to minister in kindness to Mother Earth that sustains and keeps us alive.

The ICFLC would greatly appreciate your feedback on the In-Gathering Liturgy as well as anecdotes and photos of your worship service. Please send any feedback to: icflcph@gmail.com May you have a meaningful worship!

If you feel you are not free from the covid-19 pandemic, we encourage you and your group to follow the health guidelines in your communities to ensure everyone's safety.

PREPARATION

Ask participants beforehand to bring elements of nature like rocks, plants, flowers, soil, water, etc. Set up a table for people to place these on. Music could be played at the time when people bring the items forward.

Before the service, prepare cut-outs in the shape and colour of leaves to write on prayer requests during the Intercessory Prayer. Cut out a large tree or find a large branch to which to attach these leaves of prayers. Taping them on the wall would also work. Hand out the leaves as people enter or place them on the pews.

PRELUDE

While music is played, worship participants are invited to place their nature elements at the centre or around the worship place – as a way of making the worship place alive with God’s creation.

HOW ARE YOU, OUR MOTHER EARTH? COMMUNITY SHARING

For this section of the service:

- i. you could ask for volunteers from the people attending the service to answer this question;
- ii. you could voice out the feelings of Mother Earth at this time of so much climate change; or
- iii. you could ask a guest speaker to share their direct experience of the impact of climate change or environmental destruction.

SHARED REFLECTION: YOUR STORY IN CARING FOR THE EARTH

The facilitator might prepare a board or paper and pens to write on the answers to the questions in the service. The answers could be further clarified if needed, and then summarized.

OUR FLC STORY

This may be creatively read or dramatized.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Ask people for their prayer requests particularly concerning the destruction of creation, and our responsibility to care for all of God’s creation. The requests can be written down on the pre-prepared leaves cut-outs and taped to the makeshift tree or on the wall.

CLOSING HYMN: GOD’S CALL FOR TODAY

If you have internet access, you can hear the tune for the closing hymn at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55AbfrBK-TM>