

Dances:

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Choreography: Beth Teegarden

Music: John Rutter - Hinshaw Music #HMC-550 (SATB),#HMC-449 (SA)

This dance was part of the Sunday morning service of the 2008 Conference

Dancers: This written choreography is for 10 dancers. This dance must have a minimum of 4 but can include as many as you need to have (I have done this in a workshop using about 20 people!). You **must** have an even number of dancers.

Special props or outfits: none

Dancers begin as a cluster of people in the middle of the dance area.

Verse 1:

For the beauty of the earth,

From the right side of the cluster, 4 dancers will move to the right with this combination: step, turn, step, step, kneel. You should begin on the right foot and kneel on the right leg. Arms stay down until you begin to kneel and then they come over the head open to the sides as they come down. The "kneel and arms" should happen on "earth". As the dancers move to the right they do not have to be in a certain formation.

For the beauty of the skies,

From the left side of the cluster, 4 dancers will move to the left doing the same combination as the other dancers except they will begin on the left foot and instead of kneeling they will stand feet together, left arm extended out to the side. Then the right arm reaches across the body to meet the left arm and continues moving in an "arch" above the head and down to the right side. Now both arms should be extended out to the sides. This arm movement happens on "skies". Once again a formation is not necessary, just make sure the sides are balanced and nobody is hidden behind someone else. There are still 2 dancers who are left in the cluster who haven't moved yet.

For the love which from our birth

Both right and left sides of dancers shift their weight to the "inside leg" and tondué point the other leg out to the side. (for the right side they are now standing on the left leg with right leg pointed and the left side is standing on the right leg with the left leg pointed). The focus should be towards the center and the arms should be like they're holding a baby. The right side holds the baby toward the left and the left side towards the right. The other 2 dancers still have not moved yet.

Over and around us lies, over and around us lies;

Now the 2 dancers move! While the other dancers hold the "baby" pose, one dancer will circle around the right side of dancers and the other dancer will circle around the left side of dancers. This happens at the same time, should begin from the center and they should return to their original places. The arms should just naturally come forward and lead the dancer.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise

All dancers face into the center and form a circle. Raise the right arm up on "Lord of all" and the left arm up on "thee we raise".

This our joyful hymn of praise.

Dancers will turn to a partner and do "swirls". Dancers will extend right arm out and the left arm back and come back-to-back with their partners. They will then walk around 1 full turn keeping their backs together. They will then go to the next partner and do the same "swirl" but the left arm should be out front and the right arm is extended back. This is like a grand right-and-left. Another way to make sure the swirls are going in the right direction is the partners should have the same shoulder touching each other as they turn. Ex. Both dancers right shoulders then left shoulders, etc.

Each swirl should take 8 counts. This means the first swirl happens on "This our joyful hymn of" and the second swirl on "praise" and the third swirl on the 2 measures of accompaniment before verse 2.

Verse 2:

For the beauty of each hour

After the swirls the dancers should still be in a circle but in different places from where they began the swirls. 5 dancers need to do 2 chene turns to the right, lunge on the right leg and raise the right arm up in front of the dancer with the palm facing up. The focus is to the right angle, not the center.

Of the day and of the night,

On "Of the day" the other 5 dancers will walk 2 steps to the left, releve (stand on your toes) on both feet with arms overhead in a ballet 5th position. The arms will give the image of the "sun". On "of the night" the dancers will step forward with the left leg into a lunge and also bend at the waist into a flat back keeping the arms in the 5th position. This will give the image of the "sun setting". Make sure the head stays parallel with the body and looking down. The focus is to the left angle, not the center.

Hill and vale and tree and flower

The group of dancers on the right will releve with feet apart in second position. Arms will be open above the head. This "up" move will happen on "hill". On "vale" dancers will come from the releve, face left and lunge on the left leg. The arms will come down on each side of the left leg that's in the lunge. You want the look of up and down as in "Hill and Vale". The left side of dancers (who have been holding the "night" move) will do the same movement on "tree and flower". They will end on a right lunge. All movement happens with the melody line of music, not the echo.

Sun and moon and stars of light;

Dancers will bring the back leg to the leg that is in a lunge and stand straight facing front. As the back leg comes in the same arm will come across to meet the other arm out to the side. The arm will continue to move in an arch over the head and end straight out to the other side. For the right side of dancers their right arm will be moving. The left side will have the left arm moving. This should be a continuous movement using the whole phrase. The right side will move first when the ladies sing and the left side will move second when the men sing.

Refrain:

Same as above.

Verse 3:For the joy of human love,

Coming out of the 3rd swirl dancers go to the next person and hug.

Brother, sister, parent, child,

Dancers form a "family pose" one on the right and one on the left. Have 1 or 2 dancers kneel and other dancers stand close behind. All dancers need to cross the right arm over the left and clasp the hands of the dancers on either side of them. This will look like everyone is connected.

Friends on earth, and friends above,

Keeping hands clasped as long as you can dancers begin to raise arms up and open when they no longer can hold hands together. The arms continue around and come back and clasp hands again.

For all gentle thoughts and mild:

Dancers move back to their spot in the circle when they did the "human love hug".

Refrain:

Same as above but only do 2 swirls.

Verse 4:

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,

From the circle choose every other person who will walk to the center of the circle. This will make 2 circles, an inner circle and an outer circle. The dancers walking in will raise their arms waist high with palms turned up and hands together as if receiving something. On "thine" they will raise arms over their head (still holding what they "received"), turn and place the gift in the hands of someone in the outer circle. The outer person will turn on "race" and everyone opens the arms out on "given". Both circles are now facing out so they are giving to everyone.

Graces human and divine,

The outer circle turns back to their partner and kneels. The inner circle will raise the left leg up in an arabesque. The inner circle will hold the hands of the outer circle and use them as a source for balance.

Flowers of earth and buds of heaven;

The dancer doing the arabesque will walk a circle around the dancer who was kneeling. The dancer kneeling can now stand. The dancer walking will go back to their place in the circle before they made the inner circle.

Refrain:

Same as above. You will do 3 swirls and they will get slower as the music changes tempo. After the 3rd swirl the dancers will form a cluster like the beginning, turn and face a focal point (cross, altar, table etc) and raise arms in praise.

WE BELONG TO THE EARTH

By Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner. performed by them for *One Land, One Heart* album, 1998, M.U.S.E. Association, Inc.

Choreography by Pat Stone, leader of the liturgical dance group, Miriam's Daughters, of First United Methodist Church, Waynesville, NC, 2009

This dance was part of the Sunday morning service of the 2009 Caring for Creation Conference

Refrain: We belong to the earth, we all belong to the earth. It's not

that she belongs to us. It's we belong to her. It's we belong to her.

Dance movements (Solo dancer for opening refrain) -

Step to R side: crossover L, R, cross l over R, rock back onto R; R arm from R side, clockwise back to R side, out to side on 3, back to side on 4.

Repeat to L side: L, cross R over L, L w/dip, rock back onto R; L arm as above, c-clockwise. Stand still: hands palm down, then cross on chest, then push palms out front toward audience and then down to sides; keep standing still: R hand clockwise, then point to ground, bend knees for a "dip"; then L hand with another dip.

Repeat refrain with 2 or more dancers (other dancers have come into view during above solo)

Verse 1: A strand in a web are we, a strand in a web I believe. To own it we cannot dare to dream. It's a web that we didn't weave. It's a web that we didn't weave.

Dance movements -

One person holds long ribbons in raised hand; others take one or two ends.

Independent moves: can weave and un-weave with others; can just twirl on own. Then drop ribbons to dance refrain. Ribbon holder should put them to one side.

Refrain - All dancers

Verse 2: In sun and in wind and in rain is a seed of what will be. It awakens a power that grows down below. It courses through you and through me. It courses through you and through me.

Dance movements -

One dancer is the sun, one is the wind, one is the rain. The others are the seeds, kneeling on floor, raising arms as they "grow". All can twirl or sway with "courses".

Refrain - all dancers

Verse 3: Instrumental section

Dance movements - independent movements - can have two or three in a circle dance, can do a daisy chain, etc. Can have flowers in a basket for one or two dancers to give out.

Verse 4: And when our spirits take flight, and we lay our bodies down, Our ashes may be carried away on the wind, but return to the birthing ground, but return to the birthing ground.

Dance movements - Two dancers lunge toward each other, heads bowed, back arms pointing toward each other and fingers touching; for each 'body' there is a spirit, which pulls the spirit from the body and twirls away. One or two dancers are the "ashes", scattering them about. For "birthing ground" dancers can push their hands toward the ground, and then twirling/swaying back into position for the refrain.

Refrain - all dancers; then on repeat, dancers do same or similar arm motions, while walking away from dance area, and leave or stop at exit;
repeat of last part of refrain by solo dancer who has turned back toward audience, then continue walking away.

Suggested Additional Resources

Books/Study Materials/Other Publications:

The Green Bible, published by HarperCollins Publishers, available at Cokesbury Book stores. It features an introduction by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and

includes articles by Matthew Sleeth, Pope John Paul II, Ellen Davis, Barbara Brown Taylor, Wendell Berry and others. Verses from Genesis through Revelation that speak of the natural world are printed in green.

Green Church: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rejoice, a curriculum series for all age levels, published by Abington Press, April, 2010. Participants will discover through scripture, scientific findings, learning activities and discussion that caring for the environment is an act of Christian faith. .

Upper Room Spiritual Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions by Upper Room Books, published annually, related to the lectionary, offers good worship resources. Discussion guide available.

Contemplative by Design, Creating Quiet Spaces for Retreats, Workshops, Churches, and Personal Settings, Upper Room Books, 2008, by Gerrie Grimsley and Jane Young. (Chapters 5: Breath, Wind Spirit, 13: Nature, and 15: Water, were used as guides for creating spaces for contemplative meditation for the 2008 Caring for Creation Conference at Lake Junaluska.

Strange as This Weather Has Been, a novel by Ann Pancake, makes mountain top removal issues come alive. Wendell Berry said it is one of the bravest novels he's read.

Love God, Heal Earth, by the Rev. Canon Sally Bingham

The Essential Agrarian Reader, edited by Norman Wirzba, with foreword by Barbara Kingsolver.

Sourcebook of Worship Resources, Vol. 4 and Vol. 5: www.comresources.com

Dances:

STAND UP FOR LOVE

By Susan Grace, performed by her for *One Land, One Heart* album, 1998, M.U.S.E. Association, Inc.

Choreography Pat Stone, August, 2009

DANCE DIRECTIONS

(in circle facing each other, shallow lunge, continuous bounce to fast beat, arms down by sides; each stanza can be done as solo/duet or by entire group)

As I stand here by your waters – keep arms down by sides

I can hear your song so clear – slide arms up to ears, palms down, fingers to back

I can hear the aching whispers – lead with wrists out and down

The song of sorrow loud and clear – one arm crosses heart, other arm back down to side (if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

For I have known you as a child – raise arms up

When your waters were so clear – sway arms back and forth for "water"

As you held me in (your) arms – use one arm to "cradle" a baby

As you washed away all of my fears – use the other arm in a sweeping horiz mvt over the 'baby' and out to the side, and then down (or could do a down sweep of arms)
(if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

Through many times of pain and sorrow – bring clenched fists to shoulders, then raise arms quickly and 'explode' hands on *sorrow*

I have come to you to cry – both hands covering face

You have held me in your being – move hands to hug self

Healed my heart and given strength – 'rock' within the hug
(if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

And now the time has come to listen – bring (R) arm up from side, then lead with fingers (palm up) along jaw line to ear and out

To the stillness of your pain – repeat with other arm

Just as the rage of autumn storms – slap hands together over head

I hear your song in the morning rain – separate hands and bring down (lead with wrists), wiggling fingers for 'rain'

(if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

I can hear you gently crying – hands beside ears, dip head to one side and to other

I can see your sorrow deep – hands on either side of face, dip head to one side and to other

As I watch the factories dumping – one hand shading eyes, move head from one side to the other, as if looking for/at something

Poisons into your life bloodstream – abrupt thrust down with both hands
(if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

For many years now you have given – arms slide up, crossing in front of body, then palms out and arms open

Until you cannot give no more – turn palms over and let arms drop

Your waters poisoned, your fish are dying – one hand to mouth (can either do a ‘whisper’ gesture with one finger or all fingers, or can cover mouth); then other hand does sign for ‘death’ – swipe across forehead

Where is your strength, where is your hope? – arms halfway out, palms out, as if saying ‘I don’t know’

(if not doing anything on next stanza, slowly let arm drop back down to side)

(all do this):

I have watched in utter silence – keep arms down by side

I have cried and I have mourned – left arm up and over shoulder of neighbor, then right arm (or stretch out)

Now the time has come for action – raise left arm almost straight up, fingers open and spread, then right arm, keep face looking at circle

Stand up for love, turn away no more! – hold position

Stand up for love, turn away no more! – turn to back, clinched fists to shoulders

Stand up for love, turn away no more! – turn to front, arms back up, then on last “more” bend elbows then back up, clinch fists, stamp foot, look straight up

(suggestion: group do first and last stanzas together, while inner stanzas are solos/duets, or one big solo piece)

Music:

Song: “Colors of the Wind” from Walt Disney’s POCAHONTAS, Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, Arranged by Mac Huff

Song: “Being Green” from Sesame Street, by Joe Raposo

CD: “Dark Winds Rising,” Bimstein. Voices of Piroute dramatizing their responses to the threat of an incinerator. “Handsomely crafted . . . rhythmically exciting . . . first-rate (*Dark Winds Rising*).” Joan Reinthaler, Washington Post

A useful website for free new hymns:

www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?=&reader&item_id=161012&loc_id=17,832

Websites

General Environmental:

oikoumene.org/ World Council of Churches: eco-justice and ecological debt statement

[\[mailto:gbc@umc-gbc.org\]](mailto:gbc@umc-gbc.org), General Board of Church and Society of the UMC

http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7BDB6A45E4-C446-4248-82C8-E131B6424741%7D/GRC_PastoralLetter_Liturgy.pdf United Methodist Council of Bishops' statement, including a litany for the people
<http://www.nrpe.org/> National Religious Partnership for the Environment
<http://webofcreation.org/> Resources on ecology and religion
<http://ncccusa.org/> National Council of Churches, USA
<http://www.seasonofcreation.com/> A four-Sunday celebration of creation
cfpresbytery.org, a Presbyterian Resource Center: click "Resource Center," then type "Caring for Creation;" or contact John Jackson at findjohnj@aol.com, a Presbyterian minister, author of *Creation Care In The Faith Community*
<http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/environment/> Lutheran Social Statements
<http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/economiclife/> " " "
<http://www.webofcreation.org/lens/index.html> Lutheran Earthkeeping Network of the Synods
www.earthministry.org a nonprofit committed to engaging environmental stewardship

General Eco-Justice:

<http://allianceforsustainability.net/> Events, films, other info
<http://www.eco-justice.org/> Helps churches develop relevant ministries
<http://www.justneighbors.net/> An interactive poverty awareness program
<http://www.elca.org/dcs/epr/environment/pdf/envaudit.pdf> Lutheran Environmental Audit Guide
www.gipl.org Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
www.ncipl.org, North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light
www.theregenerationproject.org A community-based project in progress

Earth Day Sunday:

<http://eco-justice.org/EarthDay02.asp>
<http://www.nccecojustice.org/> click "resources" – publishes annual resources for Earth Day worship or observance of Earth Day Sunday, as well as other helpful resources.
[Earth%20Day%20Index2.htm](http://www.earthday.net/programs/religious/)
<http://www.earthday.net/programs/religious/>

Advocacy:

<http://www.elca.org/advocacy/> Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
<http://www.faithfulamerica.org/> Religion and the Ethics of Climate Change
<http://www.advocacydays.org/tracks/domestic.php> Ecumenical Advocacy

Worship resources:

<http://www.seasonofcreation.com/liturgies/>
<http://webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm>
<http://www.eco-justice.org/tips-w.asp>
<http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/covcong.html>

www.umcworship.org General Board of Discipleship—caring for creation resources among others

www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?=-reader&item_id=161012&loc_id=17,832

A useful website for free new hymns.

www.nccecojustice.org-- click on “resources” – annually publishes resources for Earth Day worship or observance of Earth Day Sunday as well as other helpful resources.

Visual art:

www.WisdomsTable.net. Art by Sylvia Everett (including panels used at a Caring for Creation Conference at Lake Junaluska

The above list of resources incorporates a number from **Earth Notes & News Volume I, Issue 1, a publication of the Stewardship Team of the Tx-La Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA, J. M. Kuhlman, editor.*