



*Photography courtesy of Breege Donohoe, Western Province*

## *THE SYMPHONY OF NATURE*

### **Centrepiece:**

Tea-light for each person. Representations of the symphony of nature e.g. flowers, water....

### **Leader:**

We all need to renew our intimacy with the earth and attune to the rhythms of the natural world. This will help us to generate the inner and outer resilience needed as we move through the challenging times ahead, as we seek to turn from the destructive course we are currently on as a human species.

As we listen to the opening song, may we be attuned to the symphony of nature.

### **Nature's little symphony - Sean Keane**

The wind makes music as it whistles  
Through, the hand made winding walls around our  
Home. The huddled hawthorn plays a lonesome  
Tune, the skylark sings aloft and all alone.

The grasses in the meadow,  
The starlings in the sky, the children chanting poems of long ago...

All part of nature's little symphony,  
The reason the music's in our souls.

The cymbals of the crashing waves at  
Sea, rolling towards a Connemara shore  
The robin rhymes an early morn reprise,  
Proclaiming love from those who've gone before.

The rhythm of the raindrops,  
On the window of my room,  
As the fiddles weave a tune so soft below...

All part of nature's little symphony,  
The reason the music's in our souls.

No matter how far or near,  
We will all hold them dear, the songs,  
The tunes, the Celtic rhythm's call.  
Whenever those clouds draw near,  
That darkness we sometimes fear,  
Just let the music reach into your soul.

All part of nature's little symphony  
That powerful song unites us one and all.

Our parents toiled to nature's simple  
Song, believing in the beauty of their dreams.  
Friendships born to last a whole life long,  
Bound in music running through like streams.

And when we travel lightly,  
In search of dreams and more, our music is a parting gift to all.  
All part of nature's little symphony,  
The reason the music's in our souls.

To view the video, please [click here](#).

**Leader:**

We live at a time when it has become harder to hear nature's symphony. The late Thomas Berry, shared how he was influenced by an experience of seeing lilies blooming in a meadow across the creek from where he lived and his life's work emerged out of this vision. He understood the exquisite biodiversity of the meadow, each part reflecting the numinous mystery of the Universe. He describes his experience as:

**Reader:**

*The field was covered with white lilies, rising above the thick grass.*

*A magic moment, this experience gave to my life something that seems to explain my thinking at a more profound level than any other experience I remember.*

*It was not only the lilies. It was the singing of the crickets in the woodlands in the distance and the clouds in a clear sky. This early experience, it seems has become normative for me through the entire range of my thinking.*

*Although the Meadow has none of the immensity or grandeur of other places, still in this little meadow, the magnificence of life as celebration is manifested in a manner as profound and impressive as any other place I have ever known in these past many years.*

**Leader:**

Most of us grew up in conditions where it was much easier to hear the symphony of nature. Perhaps you have a place where, like Thomas Berry, you had a deep experience of the divine

Presence. Perhaps there is a place that came to mind as you listened to the opening song, a place where you experienced the Symphony of Nature. ***Pause to Remember***

**Leader:**

Many places in our world have been destroyed by our alienation from nature, through mining, fracking, deforestation etc. We will spend a few minutes focusing our attention, our love and our blessings on an area of the world that needs healing, where the symphony of nature is no longer heard. We will send rays of healing and light to that place.

**I now invite each person to mention a place where healing is needed, saying**

*“I request healing to be sent to.....(name place)”*

After each person names the place, they light a candle and place it around the centre piece.

As the person places the light, all participants raise their right hands in blessing and say:

*“We send the light of our healing to (naming the place mentioned by the person lighting the candle). May nature’s symphony be heard here again.”*

**Final Prayer:**

We have sent healing to nature but nature also heals and blesses us. I invite us to open our hands as we receive some of her blessings.

May the music of the wind bless us

May the wisdom of raven bless us

May the eyes of the eagle bless us

May the swiftness of deer bless us

May the power of the sun bless us

May the cycle of the moon bless us

May the rhythm of the sea bless us.

May our ears always be attentive to the symphony of nature.

May we learn to live in a mutually enhancing manner with earth and all her species.

May we grow into a deeper kind of listening to the living Earth.