

The San Luis Obispo Ministerial Association



The San Luis Obispo Ministerial Association provides collegiality and spiritual support for religious leaders and builds bridges of understanding among our diverse traditions and in our pluralistic community.

Examples of what our traditions say about the earth:

Baha'i



"Chaos and confusion are daily increasing in the world. They will attain such intensity as to render the frame of mankind unable to bear them. Then will men be awakened and become aware that religion is the impregnable stronghold and the manifest light of the world, and its laws, exhortations and teachings and the source of life on earth." (Words of Abdu'l-Baha)

Buddhism



"The planters of groves and fruitful trees, and they who build causeways and dams, and wells construct, and watering-sheds, and [to the homeless] shelter give: Of such as these, by day, by night, forever merit give." (The Buddha: Samvutta-Nikaya)

Christianity



"Love all God's creation - the whole of it. Every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the mystery of God in all. Once you perceive this, you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love." (Dostoevsky)

Gaia/Mother Earth



"Mother of All, Who brings forth the bounteous fruits and flowers, All variety, Maiden who anchors the eternal world in our own, Immortal, Blessed, crowned with every grace, Deep bosomed Earth, sweet plains and fields fragrant grasses in the nurturing rains, Around you fly the beauteous stars, eternal and divine, Come, Blessed Goddess, and hear the prayers of Your children. (Ancient Greek invocation)

Hinduism



"Him the sun cannot express, nor the moon, nor the stars; this lightening cannot express Him, nor what we speak of as fire. Through Him do they all shine." (Upanishad)

Interfaith



"What is shared by faith traditions is a belief that the earth is a gift meant to sustain all people. It is out of that common belief that we can work together to care for this gift now so that the gift might be enjoyed by future generations." (Rev. Doug Paulson)

Islam



"...He [God] it is who causes gardens to grow, [both] trellised and untrellised, and palm trees and crops of different [kinds of] food and olives and pomegranates, similar and dissimilar. Eat of [each of] its fruit when it yields and give its due [to charity] on the day of its harvest. And be not excessive. Indeed, He [God] does not like those who commit excess." (Qur'an 6:141)

Judaism



"Blessed be God who did not let the world lack anything, who created for it beautiful creatures, and these beautiful trees, that we may see them and be filled with joy." (Talmud - Berakhot)

Native American



"Will you ever begin to understand the meaning of the very soil beneath your feet? From a grain of sand to a great mountain, all is sacred. Yesterday and tomorrow exist eternally upon this continent. We natives are guardians of this sacred place." (Peter Blue Cloud, Mohawk)

Shinto



"Earth is the mother of all things; metal is the father." (Yoshikawa Koretari)

Sikhism



"You are the master of the earth, O human. Responsible for all life-forms." (Adi Granth)

Taoism



"Surrender yourself humbly; then you can be trusted to care for all things. Love this world as yourself. Then you can truly care for all things." (Lao Tsu)

Unitarian Universalism



"We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." (UU Principles)