

Presence Of and To Earth

Reflection created for MGP by Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand

Journey of Love [Click on audio link to play the song](#)

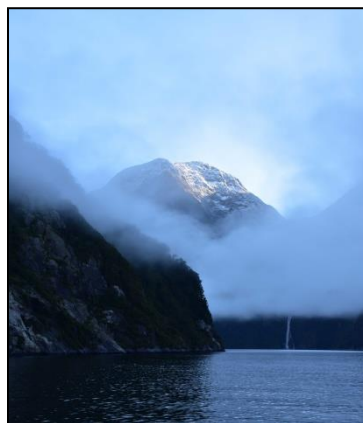
Come journey with me
A journey of love
Deep within the heart
Of our Mother Earth



Feel the warmth of her love
Feel the pain within her heart
Listen to the cry,
The cry of the earth



With your unconditional love
And your merciful heart
Your gentle presence
In our mountains
The moon and shining stars



Within the air that we breathe
The sea, our rivers and
Different creatures
In gratitude
We thank you
Our Mother Earth.



Introduction:

Hear the sound of the Conch Shell.
A call for us to be still and attend to the
Presence of Earth
within and around us.



Listen to the sound of the sea
The earth is present.

Listen to the whispering sounds of the winds
the Earth is present.

Listen to the birds singing
The Earth is present.

Listen to the sound of your breath
The Earth is present.

Look within us
The Earth is present.

Look ...



“E rere kau mai te Āwanui,
Mai i te Kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa
Kō au te Āwa, kō te Āwa kō au.”

“The great river flows
From the mountains to the sea.
I am the river, the river is me.”

Whakatauki (Māori Proverb)

The New Zealand government **granted**
the **Whanganui River**
legal **personhood** - a status
that is in keeping with the Māori worldview
that the **river is a living entity**.

the government of New Zealand. Apr 22, 2019
<https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/587689/river-me/>

Water is a free commodity ~ Catherine McAuley

What is clear is that earth is mandating that the human community
assume a responsibility never assigned to any previous generation ...
Our Task at this critical time is to awaken the energies needed to create the new world
and to evoke a universal communion of all parts of life. ~ Thomas Berry

Exile

By the waters of our Babylons
we sit down
weeping thoughts from
lost minds
plucking unstrung harps

Listen!
Rumbles Papatūānuku Mother Earth
Remember!
Thunders Rangi Father Sky
And Tangaroa drowns our dreams
Sighing in the silence of our Dark Night
Return! Return!

Te Atawhai
Womb love of God
Make of our exile
a watercouse of mercy
Birth us awake
Aware

'Exile' by Anne Campbell rsm
Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand



You in us
Us in You
Carried together in the
Cosmic Womb
One

Midwife of the ages
Hear our breeched
and bloodied scream
Guide us
in the
Turning

Prayer

For the times we ignore Climate Change and its effects
For the times we live wastefully
For the times we do not think wider than ourselves
For the times we make choices that impact the well-being others
For the times we do not appreciate the beauty and wonder of Earth
For the times we do not appreciate the giftedness of all of life

*Help us to change
Help us to change
Help us to change
Help us to change
Help us to change
Help us to change*

We are grateful for the gift of Earth
We are grateful for the ability of Earth to nourish our bodies and souls
We are grateful for the diversity of life on earth
We are grateful for both the silence and the sounds of nature

*We give thanks
We give thanks
We give thanks
We give thanks*

**Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature. Pope Francis, Laudato Si'**

Closure:

A "Journey of Love" Song ~ words and audio link are on the front page.

