

## ***Shift of Mindset and Values: Called To See The World Differently***

**Opening Song** *(Choose music appropriate for your culture and setting.)*

### **Opening Prayer**

God of all creation, you call each of us to evolve, to recognize that you hold all that is in your loving embrace. As we grow in your love, may we learn to hold others in an ever-expanding embrace as well. May we see the entire sweep of history as your self-communication that calls us to awaken to who we are in you – and who you are in us. ...May each of us participate fully in a personal evolution that will transform us and transform our world. Amen.

Excerpted from Judy Cannato, *Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life*. Notre Dame: Sorin Books, 2010. Used with permission.



Image credit: University of Vermont, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics

### **Psalm Prayer** (Recite antiphonally)

Through all generations the rivers have flowed, rivers now polluted by greed.  
Through famine and floods, the Beloved has brought forth new life.  
All though the ages, Earth has yielded its bountiful harvest;  
yet, valleys and mountains, forests and fields have been misused.

Yes, greed has become the great destroyer of life,  
taking without offering back,  
consuming Earth with abandon,  
leaving death, disease, and destruction in its wake.

We cannot be spared what we have sown;  
Generations to come will suffer from our willful ways.  
Injustice, oppression, and greed will turn back upon hearts of stone;  
Children unborn will reap a harvest of lost dreams.

Even so, the Source of all life remains faithful,  
ever ready to lead us out of the wilderness,  
to speak to us in the silence of our hearts.

Yes, You are our hope, our strength, and our comfort;  
our fears will not overwhelm us.

Who will awaken our sleeping minds and lift up our hearts to the truth?  
Who will rouse us from apathy,  
quicken our spirits that we might serve your plan?  
The Beloved awaits our response to the new dawn....

Adapted from Nan C. Merrill, "Psalm 78." *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006. Used with permission.

### Readings for reflection

If Earth were divided equally among all of us, each person would receive 4.5 acres (approximately 1.8 hectares). Now consider that everything you need (food, energy, home, transportation, clothing, appliances, cars, and gadgets) must come from those 4.5 acres. That's your fair share.

But according to the Global Footprint Network ([www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)), it takes a staggering 22.3 acres to maintain the average American lifestyle! Canada demands 14.2 acres, and even Mexico requires 8.0.

Not long ago, many believed that justice would be accomplished by lifting others up to the standard of living of industrialized nations. Now, we know that is impossible, given the spatial restrictions and limited resources of Earth. ... Our patterns of consuming must change if we are going to bring forth a world that is both sustainable and just.

Adapted from Passionist Earth and Spirit Center, *Lent 4.5: Christian Simplicity*. Used with permission.

If we apply 'enough' to our health, finances and personal energy, we automatically restrict the kinds of damage we might be unwittingly doing in the wider world. A sense of 'enough' can nourish a culture of adapted human behaviour, which will give at least some of the Earth's ecosystems a chance for renewal and at the same time foster social justice.

Enough is about possibility, which is different from prediction and expectation. The future is not knowable, but possibility remains open to us; we know that when large numbers of people, working and communicating with each other, develop in their daily lives new ways of formulating problems and responses to those problems, social change takes place and it can influence decision-making at the highest levels. A better world is possible only if greater numbers of people ask hard questions such as "How much is too much?" "Who decides?" and "Who wins or loses in the process?"

Excerpted from Anne Ryan, "The Power of Enough," *Resurgence*, Issue 263. Used with permission.

The transformation demanded is more than economic; it is also a social, cultural and political calling for a new set of values and cultural imperatives; new kinds of politics and institutions and the engagement of citizens in shaping the future – a new type of consciousness. A consciousness that shifts our culture from consumerism and competition to a focus on quality of life; our politics from power and corporate control to participatory democracy and solidarity; our economics from a growth and profit mentality to human well being and renewal of Earth.

Excerpted from Maria Riley O.P., *Seeing the World Anew: A Framework for a Renewed Economy*, Center of Concern, May 2010. Used with permission.

### Questions for reflection and sharing

- How have you come to see the world differently in recent years? How has this shift changed your everyday life? Your patterns of consumption? Your relationships with other people? Your relationships with the whole community of life?
- What would adopting “enoughness” mean for your life? What changes would it evoke and how could these changes improve your quality of life?
- Contemporary cultures have devalued the notion of Sabbath time that is intrinsic to many religious traditions, including our own. How could a recommitment to observing Sabbath move us closer to the transformation demanded in our world today?

### Intercessory prayer

#### Closing (together)

As people of faith, we stand in awe of Earth’s goodness and of its ability to provide abundantly for all God’s creation. Recognizing our responsibility to protect that capacity, we firmly commit to a new way of life and a different economy, one based on the integrity and dignity of creation, the common good, ecological health and resilience, sufficiency, equality, and solidarity. We place our trust in God’s grace and in the human capacity to face this challenge with creativity, innovation, and faithfulness that will ensure the renewed flourishing of all beings for all time.

Amen.

From *A Call to Integrate Faith, Ecology and the Global Economy*; Faith, Economy, Ecology, Transformation; <http://faietheconomyecology.wordpress.com/2010/07/26/130/>. Used with permission.

### Suggested Resources for Further Study and Reflection

#### Articles

1. *Seeing the World Anew – A Framework for a Renewed Economy*, Maria Riley, O.P., Center of Concern, <http://www.coc.org/node/6539>.
2. “The Power of Enough,” Ann Ryan, *Resurgence* magazine, Issue 263.

## Books

1. *Enough is Plenty: Public and Private Policies for the 21st Century*, Anne Ryan, O Books, 2009. Anne B Ryan is an Irish lecturer and researcher in adult and community education.
2. *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*, Juliet B. Schor, Penguin Press, 2010.
3. *The Story of Stuff*, Annie Leonard, Free Press, 2010.
4. *Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life*, Judy Cannato, Sorin Books, 2010.

## Websites

1. Faith-Economy-Ecology-Transformation, <http://faitheconomyecology.wordpress.com/>
2. *Lent 4.5: Christian Simplicity* is a program for protecting God's creation, promoting Gospel justice, and nurturing spiritual fulfillment. Find us at <http://www.lent45.org/>.
3. *Ecological Footprint*, Center for Sustainable Economy, <http://myfootprint.org/>
4. *The Story of Stuff*, <http://www.storyofstuff.org/>.