



**"Connecting People to Nature",  
the theme for World Environment Day  
2017,**

**implores us to get outdoors  
and into nature,  
to appreciate its beauty and its  
importance,**

**and to take forward the call to protect  
the Earth that we share.**

**This year's theme invites you to think  
about how we are part of nature  
and how intimately we depend on it.**

**It challenges us to find fun and  
exciting ways to experience and cherish  
this vital relationship.**

#### Reflections for June 05

'If you would learn more, ask the beasts.  
Seek information from the birds of the air.  
The creeping things of earth  
will give you lessons,  
and the fishes of the sea will tell you all.  
There is not a single creature that does not  
know that everything is of God's making.  
God holds in power the soul  
of every living thing,  
and the breath of every human body.'  
(Job 12. 7-10)

***Prayer is nothing but the inhaling and  
exhaling of the one breath of the universe.  
Hildegard.***

To listen to Earth's many voices, to hear  
her song and her cry, to attune ourselves to  
her rhythms such that she does become the  
primary revelation of the sacred is one  
ongoing invitation on our personal journey  
of transformation.  
Let us draw strength and joy from this  
opportunity to be drawn into the mystery  
at the heart of all that is.

*O God, enlarge within us the sense of  
communion with all living things, our  
brothers and sisters, the animals, to whom  
thou gave the earth as their home in  
common with us.*

*We remember with shame that in the past  
we have exercised the high dominion of  
humans with ruthless cruelty, so that the  
voice of the earth,  
which should have gone up to thee in  
song, has been a groan of travail.*

*May we realize that they live not for us  
alone but for themselves, and for thee and  
that they love the sweetness of life. -*

*(St. Basil the Great born 330)*



***Spend some time in nature today.***

#### **Prayer**

Holy One, teach us to befriend Earth.  
Open our ears to the cries of creation,  
Cries for justice from the land,  
the seas and the skies.

Open our hearts and empower us to live  
simply and to walk gently on the earth.  
Open our eyes to see the Divine Presence  
pulsing through Earth.

We give thanks for the gift of all that is.  
Help us to be grateful and graceful as one  
of Earth's species in relationship with the  
whole community of life.

*Amen. (Connections India)*