

Garden Blessing

Open

Leader: Today we are gathered to bless this garden. May its fruits nourish this community and restore justice to all. Please repeat the final line of the thanks and blessings as a group.

Leader: We give thanks for this soil teaming with life, the tools and seeds, the hands and backs to work the land, so that many may be fed by the food grown here. We give thanks for this garden.

All: We give thanks for this garden.

Blessing

Leader: Bless this garden with rain and sunshine - that new life may spring up, contributing to the interconnected natural cycle that supports all life on this Earth. May this garden be blessed.

All: May this garden be blessed

Leader: Bless the workers of this garden, that they may enjoy community amongst themselves and the plants, and find spiritual sustenance in those connections. May the workers be blessed.

All: May the workers be blessed

Leader: Bless us all that we may be truly at one with the integrity of all Creation. Strengthen us as inhabitants of your magnificent garden, our sacred Earth, to speak up when it is being abused and misused, to stand firm in our conviction to be faithful contributors to the health of our common home. May we all be blessed.

All: May we all be blessed

Leader: We give our most heartfelt thanks for the blessings we receive from this garden. We give thanks for this garden.

All: We give thanks for this garden.

Leader: Now let's sing this song for our beautiful garden.

Song

"The Garden Song", (great to include children in this song)

Sung by Raffi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSNkeA2z8aA>

Sheet music: <https://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/garden-song/39485>

Garden Blessing

The Garden Song

Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Till the rain comes tumbling down
Pulling weeds and picking stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
Cause the time is close at hand
Painful rain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land
Plant your rows straight and long
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care
Old crow watching hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there

Poem

THE GARDEN IS RICH WITH DIVERSITY

The garden is rich with diversity
With plants of a hundred families
In the space between the trees
With all the colors and fragrances.
Basil, mint and lavender,
God keep my remembrance pure,
Raspberry, apple, rose,
God fill my heart with love,
Dill, anise, tansy,
Holy winds blow in me.
Rhododendron, zinnia,
May my prayer be beautiful
May my remembrance O God
be as incense to thee
In the sacred grove of eternity
As I smell and remember
The ancient forests of earth.

—CHINOOK PSALTER

Closing

Leader: May we learn to love and care for our common home by caring for this garden. May we grow closer to God and to one another as we work in the garden together.

All: Amen

Additional Blessings

Catholic Blessing: <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/prayer-garden>

Christian Blessing: <http://commonprayer.net/occasional-prayers/blessing-of-the-land-at-planting-or-harvest>

Lutheran Blessing: <https://flclincoln.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/blessing-garden.pdf>

Iroquois Blessing: https://www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/celebrations/we_return_thanks.html

Islamic prayer for planting: <https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/islam/duaa-454.aspx>

Jewish Prayer for Appreciating God through Nature: <https://www.aish.com/jl/jewish-law/daily-living/32-The-Jewish-Garden.html>