

## Prayer of the Four Directions

Prayers of the four directions are part of many religious traditions throughout the world. This particular version comes originally from a Native American prayer that passed through many hands that modified it (Genesis Farm and the Reverend Pat Underwood among them) before I received it and modified it further. In using it I want to honor the deep religious connection that Native Americans have with the divine and with creation. I want to acknowledge how much we have taken and misused from both Native Americans and our native land. And I want to integrate this Prayer of the Four Directions with my own Christian faith tradition.

### **Let Us Turn to the East**

the place of new beginnings  
the coming of the light and the primal fires;  
Its color is red;  
its season is Spring;  
its time is the dawn; and its special gift is *illumination*.  
let us receive the gifts of the East (gesture 1).

Now, mindful that the first revelation was in the Earth and the cosmos,  
and aware of how often I have failed to see that revelation  
and failed to share that gift,  
I call upon the powers of Christ, in whom and through whom all things  
were created and I ground them in the Earth (gesture 2),  
and I ask forgiveness,  
that the energies of divine creativity and prophetic imagination  
may flow into me and throughout all the Earth and cosmos  
birthing in all dark places the light of hope  
and the promise of an abiding peace.  
AMEN. AMEN.

### **Let Us Turn to the South**

the place of flowering,  
of maturation and healing;  
Its color is yellow;  
Its season is summer;  
Its time is noon,  
and its special gift is *embodiment*.  
Let us receive the gifts of the South (gesture 1),  
Now, mindful that the first revelation was in the Earth and cosmos,

and aware how often I have failed to see that revelation  
and failed to share that gift,  
I call upon the powers of Jesus of Nazareth who walked  
the hill country of Galilee teaching, healing, weeping  
and I ground them in the Earth (gesture 2),  
and I ask forgiveness,  
that the energies of deep compassion and divine healing  
may flow into me and throughout the Earth and all Creation,  
birthing in all places of emptiness and longing  
the gifts of abundant life.  
AMEN. AMEN.

**Let us turn to the West.**

the place of the oncoming darkness  
the place of departed spirits  
the place of letting go;  
Its color is black;  
Its season is fall;  
and its time is sunset;  
and its special gift is *mystery*  
Let us receive the gifts of the West (gesture 1).  
Now, mindful that the first revelation was in the Earth and cosmos,  
and also aware how often I have failed to see that revelation  
and failed to share that gift,  
I call upon the powers of Christ who suffered and died  
out of love for the world  
and I ground them in the Earth (gesture 2),  
and I ask forgiveness,  
that the energies of forgiveness and transforming love  
may flow into me and throughout the Earth and all creation  
bringing to all places of despair and hatred and conflict  
dreams and visions of a world transformed  
and the harvest of deep peace.  
AMEN. AMEN.

**Let Us Turn to the North**

the place of frozen stillness  
the place of quiet waiting  
Its color is white;

Its season is winter;  
Its time is midnight;  
and its special gift is *renewal*.  
Let us receive the gifts of the North (gesture 1).  
Now, mindful that the first revelation was in the Earth and cosmos,  
and also aware of how often I have failed to see that revelation  
and failed to share that gift,  
I call upon the powers of the Risen Christ  
in whom all things in heaven and on earth are being brought into unity  
and I ground them in the Earth (gesture 2),  
and I ask forgiveness,  
that the energies of resurrection, of baptism, and of Eucharist  
may flow into me and throughout the Earth and all creation,  
bringing to every tree and stream, every rock and reptile, every living  
creature and humans of every race and culture and spiritual path  
the wholeness of life eternal, unfolding in grace forever and ever  
in the great dance of life. AMEN. AMEN.

### **Let Us Turn Once More to the East**

acknowledging the polarities and wounds in the world around us  
and in our own hearts,  
Reach out and receive the forgiveness and blessing of the East  
turn 180 degrees and offer that blessing to the West;  
Still facing the West, gather the forgiveness and blessing of the West into  
your heart (this is gesture 3).

### **Now turn to the South**

Reach out and receive the forgiveness and blessing of the South  
and turn 180 degrees, offering that blessing to the North;  
gather the forgiveness and blessing of the North into your heart,  
sensing the completion of forgiveness within (this is gesture 3).

### **Turning again to the East**

Take a step forward into your deepest Self  
Step forward again into a New Day  
Now step into Mystery.  
Go in peace with the blessing of earth and heaven in your heart!