

DEDICATION OF THE PEACE POLE
June 27, 2009

Leader:

**My sisters and brothers,
We dedicate this pole as a physical sign
of our own willingness to be people of peace.
Inscribed on the pole in Chinese, Slovak, English and Spanish are the
words, "May peace prevail on earth."
We will also see these words spoken in sign language.
And if you look closely at the pole,
you will see images of the solar system and of earth's flora and fauna,
representing all the other life forms with which we share this earth.**

Now let us pray. (*Silence*)

**God of the universe,
receive our humble prayers for peace
throughout this wondrous but wounded planet.
May this sign of peace,
this pole pointing into the vastness of the universe,
be a reminder to us,
keep us awake,
keep us aware.**

**May we cultivate peaceful hearts,
generous, forgiving and gentle.
May blood cease to flow upon fields of war
and in the streets of our cities.
May water and air once again sustain life for all your creatures,
especially those impoverished by our selfish greed or thoughtless abuse.
May the sun shine on all that you made and declared to be good,
even on that which we mindlessly ignore.**

**We ask this of you, Creator God,
in the name of Jesus who walked this earth
and of the Spirit whose breath sustains our lives,
confident that you hear all prayers, forever and ever. Amen.**

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

**In the beginning,
when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless wasteland,
and darkness covered the abyss,
while a mighty wind swept over the waters.**

(pause)

**God spoke ... and so it happened.
God looked at everything that had been made,
and found it very good.**

**The Word of our God.
Thanks be to God.**

**Leader: Our response to the Word of God will be:
May peace fill our hearts; may peace fill the earth.**

(Each speaker comes forward, places some incense on the coals, then speaks her prayer. The assembly responds

(After all five have spoken, "Dona nobis pacem" is begun quietly among the assembly. Speakers move toward the pole, and, in turn, splash water on the pole, place pebbles near the base of the pole, bow to the pole, etc. After they complete their gesture, they move out to invite others to come forward. Music continues until most of those in the assembly complete their gestures.)

**Leader:
Standing in this circle of hope,
this circle of peace,
we renew our intention to stand in right relationship
with all of the cosmic community.**

**We promise to join in healing and restoring our earth.
We pledge ourselves to awareness and action in our local settings.
And we open our hearts to heal any disruption in our relationships
with one another in this communion of charity.
Let us now seal this commitment
by exchanging the greeting of peace with one another.**

Peace Pole Prayer Notes

The peace pole is just outside this building. Our ritual will involve the four elements of fire, water, air and earth.

Incense on burning coals will remind us of the primordial fire of the sun, water will recall for us the great rivers and every form of moisture that sustains the world, the wind playing with our ribbons will reveal the unseen but essential breath of the world, and the stones we place remind us that we share the precious earth with all other creatures who, like us, are made of stardust.

(Disclaimer: heat, uneven ground, sidewalks, etc. Not necessary that all be outside, but to find a place and time where they can participate.)

Our prayer is simple: May peace fill our hearts so that peace prevails in our world.

Our gestures are simple:

- ***we may place a stone in the lily bed at the foot of the pole;***
- ***we may sprinkle the pole with water;***
- ***we may place a grain of incense on the coals;***
- ***we may simply stand in reverence and breathe out blessings and hope on our world.***

We may do it any time. We'll leave the water and incense there until this evening. ... We will begin our formal prayer in ten minutes.

We move now from this sacred space to our place of dedication.

Let us walk in silence and peace from this sacred space to that one.

(Procession goes at the end, after most have already moved to the site. Order of procession: ribbon banner, bowl with incense, bowl with water, speakers of the four languages, reader, ritual leader.)