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# Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth  
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process

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## Session Two Prayer

*By Mary Pendergast, RSM*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Let us recall the Presence of the Spirit of the Living God. The God who breathed across the waters and created all that we have ever known and loved.

May we hold in our awareness these “unprecedented times” and the effect on the poorest among us. Catherine once said that she would rather go hungry than have one of the little ones go without.

How is it that Earth, herself, the undisputed jewel of the Universe, became so diminished in the span of a couple of generations?

What do we do now that we know?

Song: <https://bit.ly/sessiontwoprayer>

Play until one minute

### CENTERING PRAYER

“A Gift for the Future” by Rivera Sun

1. Today a child was born, tiny hands curling and unfurling with the startled shock of cool air on wet skin, oxygen flooding into newly opened lungs as she cries upon entering this strange new world. This child will likely live to see 2100. The date hangs, inconceivable, futuristic, but now within the span of a single lifetime. The child will be 80 by then. She will have lived through every dire climate



prediction modeled by modernity's soothsayers, the scientists. She will have seen the full weight of our failures in the times she was too young to remember...these next few years when an immediate transition away from fossil fuels is an imperative for the survival of humanity.



2. If we don't turn this story around, the tiny newborn arriving today will grow up in the greatest tragedy ever to hit our species, the catastrophic collapse of all we know and love. She will see the dawn of a new bleak century, awash in the wreckage of nuclear waste, plastic pollution, ruined cities, dust bowls of barren farmlands. Hers will not be the Silent Spring of which Rachel Carson warned. It will be the Silent Century.

3. She will be tough, this old woman. She will have survived decades of horrors: heat waves roasting the corn on the stalk and melting onions in the fields, superstorms that slam the coastlines and flatten cities, torrential flooding that sweeps whole towns away, vanishing ice caps, rising seas that swallow Florida in a gulp, early frosts that lead to crop failures and empty grocery store shelves, desperate wars fought for water amidst unrelenting droughts.



### CLOSING PRAYER

May all I do today be for the healing of the whole. May all I do today, mend our broken world. May all I do today bring blessing on the Earth. May all I do today be for the good of all. All I do today... (Jan Novotka) Repeat two times.

Amen