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### III. Hope/Future

#### Reader 9

*Nachman of Breslov, Likutey Moharan II: 112*

If you believe you can damage, then believe you can fix. If you believe you can harm, then believe you can heal.

#### Reader 10

*Qur'an, 6:98-99*

It is God Who first produced you from a single soul, then gave you a place to stay and a resting place. We have made our revelations clear to those who understand. It is God who sends down rain from the sky, and with it We bring forth vegetation of all kinds, and out of it We bring forth thick clustered grain. And out of the date palm and its spate come clusters of dates hanging low and near, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranates each similar (in kind) yet different (in variety and taste). Look at their fruits when they begin to bear, and the ripeness thereof. In all this there are signs for those who would believe.

#### Reader 11

*Circles of Wisdom Native People-Native Homelands*

Indigenous prophecy now meets scientific prediction. What we have known and believed, you also now know. The Earth is out of balance. The plants are disappearing, the animals are dying, and the very weather —rain, wind, fire itself — reacts against the actions of the human being. For the future of the children, for the health of our Mother Earth, Father Sky, and rest of Creation, we call upon the people of the world to hold your leaders accountable.

#### Reader 12

*Job 14:7-9*

There is hope for a tree; if it is cut down it will renew itself; its shoots will not cease. Even if its roots are old in the earth, and its stump crumbles to dust, at the scent of water it will bud and produce branches like a sapling.

#### The Commissioning

*Rev. Sally Bingham*

It is written, "And you shall tell your child on that day, I do this because of what the Eternal did for me, freeing me from the narrow place." In the power of the Spirit go forth, hearing creation's cry of complaint and spreading the word of what God requires from us to heal our world.

#### The Mosaic of our Stories

#### Closing Song

מְעוֹלָם קוֹיְנוּ לָךְ

*May-O-lahm Keeveenu Lach – We forever hope in You*

Daily Thanksgiving Prayer; melody by Cantor Aviva Rosenblum.

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# INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

2014 National Conference  
Washington, DC

## Opening Service

*Telling our Stories*  
Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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## Gathering Song--Turn, Turn, Turn

Led by Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Lyrics on attached handout

From *Ecclesiastes*, adapted by Pete Seeger

### I. Remembrance/Past

#### Reader 1

Mark 14:9

Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, the story of what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.

#### Reader 2

*Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 270*

They who are the people of God have no ambition except to revive the world, to ennoble its life, and regenerate its peoples.

#### Reader 3

*Hon. Walter Dasheno, Governor, Santa Clara Pueblo*

Never again in our lifetime will we see our traditional and treasured homeland and spiritual sanctuary, the Santa Clara Canyon, as we have known it. It will take generations for our community and lands to recover from the devastation of this fire and climate change. But this is our only homeland; it is the place we have been entrusted with since time immemorial.

#### Reader 4

*Dalai Lama, A Question of Our Own Survival*

In this century we have seen enough war, poverty, pollution, and suffering. According to Buddhist teaching, such things happen as the result of ignorance and selfish actions, because we often fail to see the essential common relation of all beings. The Earth is showing us warnings and clear indications of the vast effects and negative potential of misdirected human behavior. When we are able to recognize and forgive ignorant actions of the past, we gain the strength to constructively solve the problems of the present.

### II. Mindfulness/Present

#### Reader 5

*Rumi, "The Silk Worm"*

I stood before a silk worm one day.  
And that night my heart said to me,  
"I can do things like that, I can spin skies,  
I can be woven into love that can bring warmth to people;  
I can be soft against a crying face,  
I can be wings that lift,

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And I can travel on my thousand feet throughout the earth,  
My sacks filled with the sacred."

And I replied to my heart,

"Dear, can you really do all those things?"

And it just nodded, "Yes."

So we began and will never cease.

#### Reader 6

*Pope Francis, "World Environment Day"*

We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation; thus we are no longer able to read what Benedict XVI calls "the rhythm of the love story of God and human." Why does this happen? Why do we think and live in a horizontal manner? We have moved away from God, we no longer read God's signs. Instead, men and women are sacrificed to the idols of profit and consumption.

#### Reader 7

*Henry David Thoreau, Walden*

In any weather, at any hour of the day or night, I have been anxious to improve the nick of time, and notch it on my stick too; to stand on the meeting of two eternities, the past and future, which is precisely the present moment; to toe that line.

#### Reader 8

*Yehuda Amichai, Selected Poetry*

From the place where we are right  
flowers will never grow  
in the spring.

The place where we are right  
is hard and trampled  
like a yard.

But doubts and loves  
dig up the world  
like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
where the ruined  
house once stood.

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