

Confidence in the Future



THE BASIC MOOD of the future might well be one of confidence in the continuing revelation that takes place in and through the Earth. If the dynamics of the Universe from the beginning shaped the course of the heavens, lighted the sun, and formed the Earth, if this same dynamism brought forth the continents and the seas and atmosphere, if it awakened life in the primordial cell and then brought into being the unnumbered variety of living beings, and finally brought us into being and guided us safely through the turbulent centuries, there is reason to believe that this same guiding process is precisely what has awakened in us our present understanding of ourselves and our relation to this stupendous process. Sensitized to such guidance from the very structure and functioning of the Universe, we can have confidence in the future that awaits the human venture.

— Thomas Berry
from "The New Story"
The Dream of the Earth

When we finally face the fact that we have gone beyond the ordinary,

Stand at the edge of what we know and control

And we peer over the edge into the unknown;

And we ask Indeed sometimes we shout,

The ultimate questions: what is over there?

Do we dare to go there?

Will we find some way to express our depths?

Will this give meaning to our lives?

So we stand on the edge,

Peering out into the darkness,

Feeling at once lured beyond

Yet frightened to go there.

There are very few key moments in our lives

And they happen, although not often with the same force.

They are the moments of decision, moments of grace in our lives.

And we gather. We gather in the rough and the smooth

And have the opportunity offered to all to be transformed²³.

We acknowledge a Power, a Presence,
beyond our human words and images,
Energising, holding everything,
in connectedness and relationships,
A Presence that comes to expression
everywhere, at all times,
in the vastness of the universe

We acknowledge,
we live and move and have our being
in this presence.

We rejoice
in our conscious awareness
of this Presence
And of our intimate connectedness with it.
Wanting to help us appreciate
the presence of the Divine
in our everyday neighbourly actions.

We give thanks
for all the men and women
across the centuries
who have struggled
with words and images
to understand
this Mystery
beyond all words and images
and to understand
our relationship with this Mystery,

We pray that we might better imitate
Jesus
who rejected power, authority and control
in favour
of being with people in their day-to-day struggles.