

# PEACE FOR THE EARTH



FROM THE BIBLE  
TO THE FRONT LINES

# CENTERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We came from the watersheds of many rivers:

All: We came from the watersheds of the Cape Fear, the Columbia, the Delaware, the San Joaquin, the Mississippi, the James, the San Antonio, the Salinas, and many others.

One: We came from the lands of many indigenous peoples:

All: We came from the lands of the Catawba, the Sioux, the Shawnee, the Apache, the Powhatan, the Kusso, the Yokuts, the Osage, and many others.

One: We have gathered this week on the lands of the Ramapough Lanape and in the watershed of the Hudson,

All: to worship and grow, to seek anew your Spirit of peace and justice.

One: We are grateful, O God, for the ways that you have stirred and swirled and flowed and danced in our midst.

All: And we are grateful for a renewal of your peace-filled vision.

One: Be in our midst as we gather one more time,

All: so that we might catch another glimpse of how we might be faithful stewards of our relationships with others and with all creation.

# GATHERING HYMN

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

#286



Breathe on me, Breath of God;  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God. For though we are people of the rivers, people claimed by the water at baptism, we fail to be springs of shalom. We fail to join our hands and hearts and lives to be tributaries of peace. We fail to share our resources to be watersheds of mercy and justice and healing in the world. In your mercy, make us new.

Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water so that we might catch another glimpse of your new heaven and new earth. Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water so that we might be called anew to co-create your beloved community here and now. Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water, so that we might really be people of your peace for the sake of all creation. Amen.

# ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS



PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

# SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 47:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

<sup>2</sup>Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

<sup>3</sup> Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. <sup>6</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, have you seen this?”

Then he led me back along the bank of the river.  
<sup>7</sup> As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. <sup>9</sup> Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes.

<sup>10</sup> People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. <sup>11</sup> But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

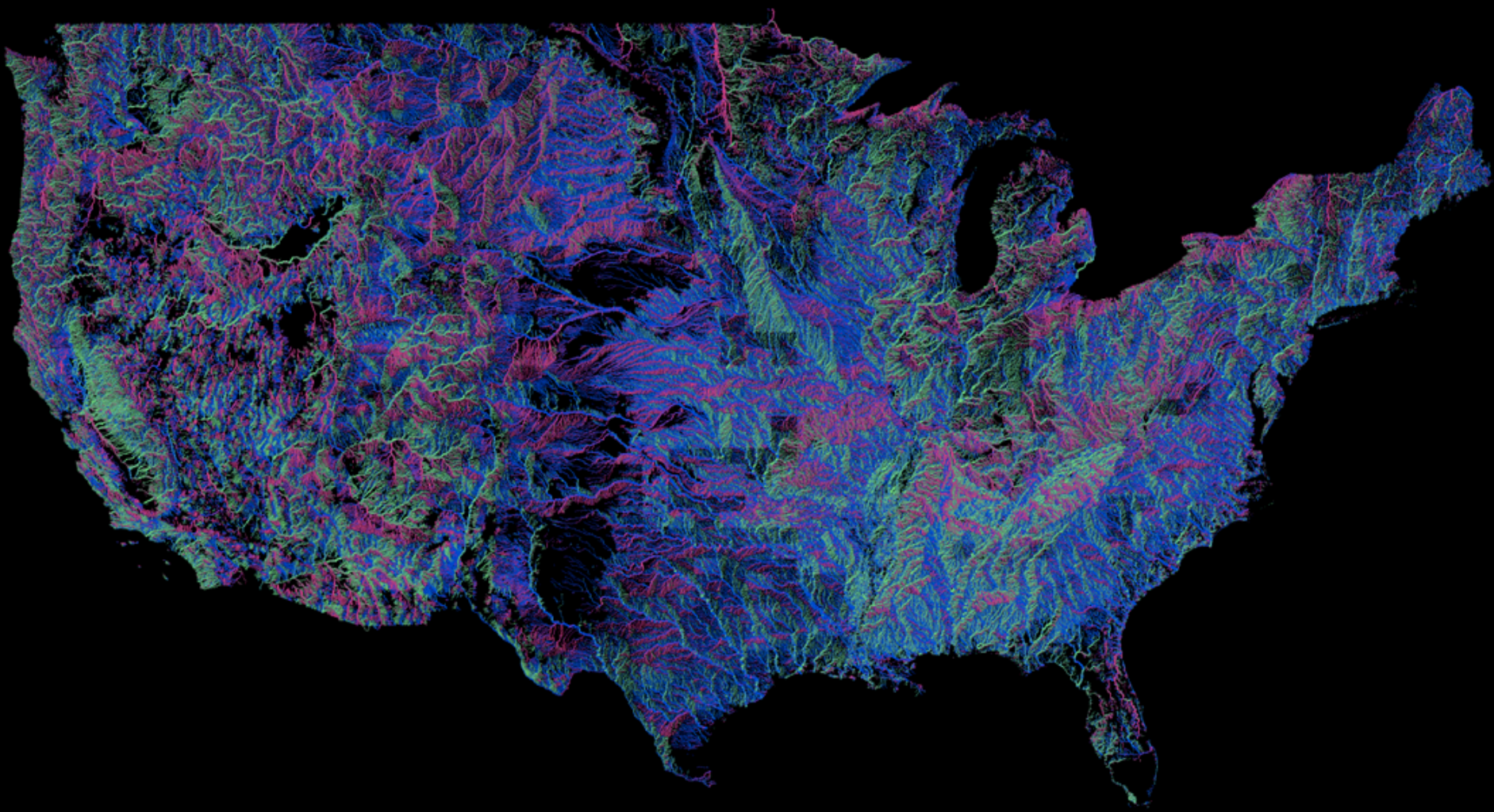
Ezekiel 47:1-12



# CHORAL ANTHEM

*There Is A Balm*

arr. Warren B. Cooper



# HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION

*There is a Balm*

#792

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge,  
he'll not refuse to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus  
and say, "He died for all."

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from New Zealand Book of Prayer*



Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the  
universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

# SENDING HYMN

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

#853

We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.

## Zulu/Xhosa

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

We are flowing in the light of God;  
we are flowing in the light of God.

We are flowing in the light of God;  
we are flowing in the light of God.



We are living in the light of God;  
we are living in the light of God.

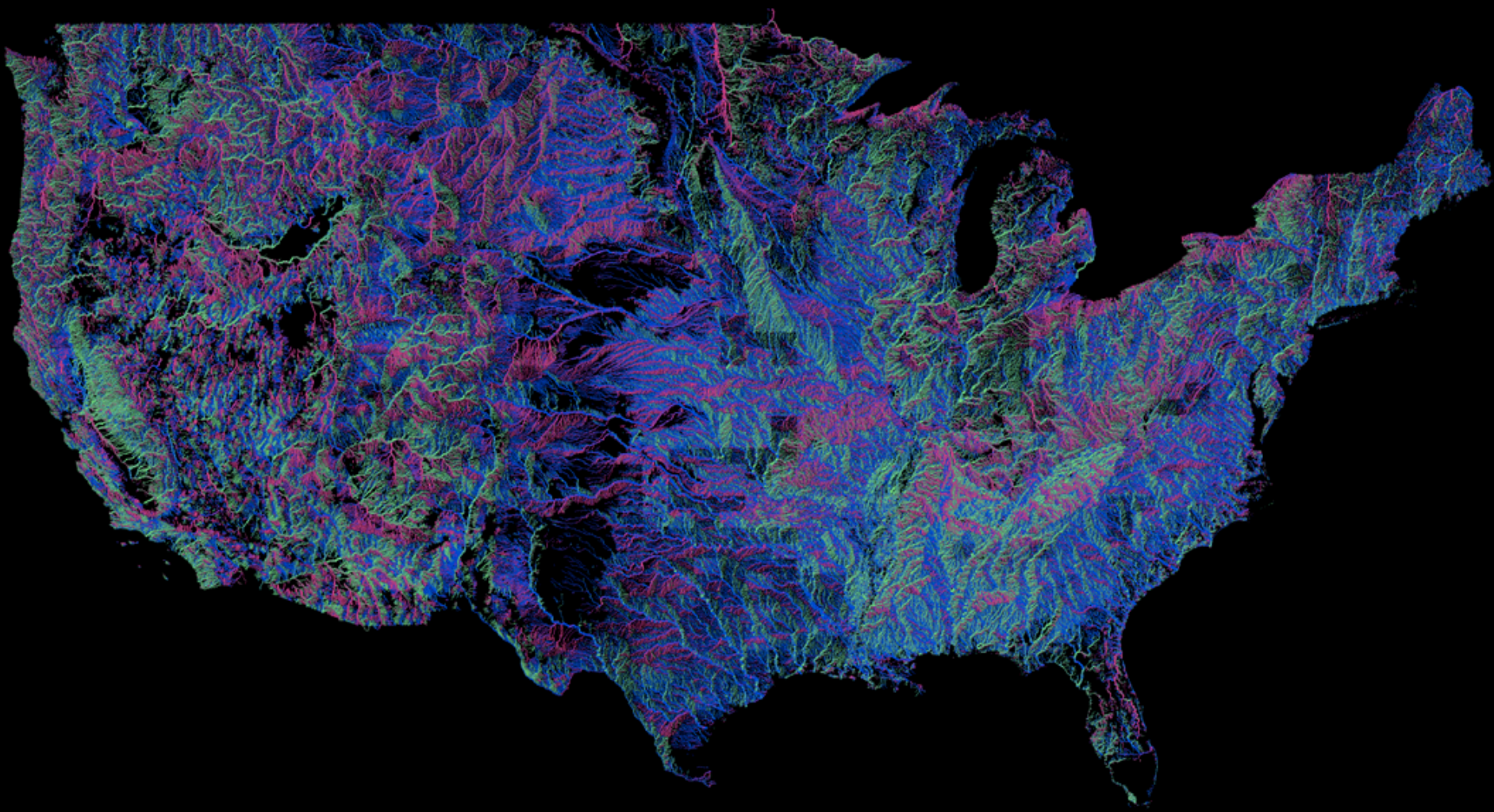
We are living in the light of God;  
we are living in the light of God.

## Zulu/Xhosa

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
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CHARGE



BENEDICTION



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