

## EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 2026

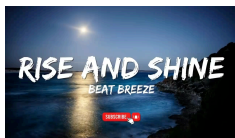


## THEME:

**OUR POWER, OUR PLANET**

*“Each morning, we hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back.”  
- Dag Hammarskjöld*

### Opening Song: Rise and Shine



[Song Link](#)

Let us Pray: God of all creation, You remind us in this song that we are more than passive observers in the unfolding story of Your creation. As participants with You we hear Your call to bring light, and hope, to renew the face of this Earth. May our hearts always be open to You, our way, our truth and our life. We make our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen

**Leviticus 25:23:** “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.”

### Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 1:7

*“God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-discipline.”*

As we reflect on the theme of Earth Day 2026—*Our Power, Our Planet*—we may quietly wonder if such a call belongs more to the younger generation than to us. We may feel that it is they who are better prepared to face the urgent challenges of a world that seems to be unravelling into uncertainty and fear.

Yet, if we pause and listen more deeply, another truth begins to emerge.

Alongside the voices that speak of crisis and collapse, there are other more hope-filled voices speaking of something new. They speak not only of unraveling, but of an unveiling... a rebirth. What may appear to be the breaking apart of what we have known may also be a threshold, an opening into a new way of being, a new story for our planet and for all of humanity.

From this deeper perspective, we begin to recognize that we are not without power.

In fact, shaped by years of grounding in God through prayer, contemplation, and faithful living, we carry within us a profound and transformative power—the power of influence. It is a quiet power, yet deeply generative. It is not a power that dominates, but one that awakens. It is a power capable of moving hearts, shifting consciousness, and calling forth hope in ways that are often unseen, yet deeply felt.

This is the power that awakens within us a prophetic voice—a voice that dares to name a different future. A voice that helps guide the human family away from ways of living that harm the Earth and one another, and toward a vision that honors, sustains, and cherishes the sacredness and equality of all life.

This movement toward a new way of being has been named by Joanna Macy as *The Great Turning*. It also resonates deeply with what Pope Francis calls in *Laudato Si'* an “ecological conversion.” At its heart, this is a turning of the whole person—a spiritual, cultural, and moral transformation. It is a turning of the heart toward right relationship: with God, with one another, and with all creation.

For us, especially as people of faith, this may be the most important work of our time.

We are being called to be witnesses to this new way of seeing and living—to walk gently with others along this sacred, evolving path. We are called to inspire, to encourage, and at times to be prophetic in signing petitions and letters to challenge injustice, always attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit who continues to guide, renew, and call forth life in every age.

This awakening is not distant or abstract. It is deeply personal and urgently needed. It calls us to allow our hearts—and the hearts of those around us—to be reshaped and redirected, turning away from patterns that no longer serve life, and moving toward deeper alignment with truth, with love, and with the profound interconnection of all that is.

In this Great Turning, we begin to listen not only with our ears, but with our hearts. We become more aware of God’s call echoing all around us—woven through creation, revealed in Scripture, and heard in the cries of our world.

We are invited to pause and reflect:

- Where do I see signs of hope in our world?
- Where am I being called to act?
- What power has God placed within me for this time?

As we begin to respond to these questions, something within us is transformed. Fear begins to give way to love. Division opens into unity. Dishonesty is replaced by truth. Injustice bends toward peace.

This is the power entrusted to us.

This is our shared calling—to restore the sacredness of our planet Earth.

And in this awakening of hope and trust, we begin to catch a glimpse of God’s Kingdom—coming “*on Earth as in heaven.*”

### **Closing Hymn: Canticle of the Turning**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UfzY3yEVIId3bZ22PxsTu7fHr0wuok4tM/preview>