

*Creator God, we come to you today with heavy hearts. We know that in each moment our Sister Water moves through us in our blood and in our tears, connecting us with the waters of the planet. Today we have shed our tears and given voice to our deep sorrow for our ailing brother and sister creatures. We now return these tears of ours back to our earth.*

*(1<sup>st</sup> bowl, east) Now we turn to the East. Oh, great spirit of the East, you breathe new life into us each morning with the breaking forth of the dawn's light. Receive these, our tears of inadequacy and powerlessness. Fueled by a belief in resurrection and new beginnings, may we join with one another, and together build a world anew.*

*(2<sup>nd</sup> bowl, south) Now we turn to the South. Oh, great spirit of the South, you warm our bodies and our earth with your noontime sun. Your fiery energy burns at the center of our being, fueling our dreams and passions. Receive these, our tears of anger and passion. May they ignite our hearts, fueling acts of justice and compassion on behalf of all Creation.*

*(3<sup>rd</sup> bowl, west) Now we turn to the West. Oh, great spirit of the West, you reward us with the fruit of our labors during the Fall harvest and dazzle our senses with your brilliant sunset at day's end. Receive these, our tears of sorrow and pain. May they convert our hearts, and may we receive comfort in knowing that they flow from our deep love for all creation.*

*(4<sup>th</sup> bowl, north) Now we turn to the North, Oh great spirit of the North, we need your strength and courage to weather the winter storms that come our way. When grounded in right relation to your earth, we find no scarcity, only abundance. Receive these, our tears. May they water this sacred Earth, and from this day forward, may we walk gently upon her as holy ground.*

*Now, I invite you if you are able to kneel down to touch the earth, or fold your hands in a prayerful position, to close with a prayer for our Sister, Mother Earth.*

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Composed by Pam Wood and Ken Bunker, based on the Prayer of the Four Directions in the North American native tradition.

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