

Prayer around the fire

We are all strangers and pilgrims.  
Let us light a fire at the crossroads  
To call on the name of the Lord.  
Let us close the circle and make a temple in the wind.  
Let us make, of where we chance to be, a temple.  
For the time has come to worship in spirit and in truth,  
To give thanks in every place and at all times.  
Let us set a term to time, a center to outer darkness,  
And make ourselves present at the present.  
The present we pursued in vain throughout our days,  
For it was far from us at its time of being.  
Now, here it is, before our eyes and in our hearts, the present.  
Fire is the present burning and shining, the present praying.  
Fire is the sacrifice of what burns, warmth of life and joy to see.  
Fire is the death of dead things and their return to the light.  
Fire of joy! Suffering and joy within each other.  
Love is the joy of suffering.  
Fire is life and death within each other,  
Appearance being consumed and substance appearing.  
Let us sing glory in the tongue of fire, evident and clear to all men.  
And you, passersby on the road of the four winds,  
Step into the round and put your hands in ours.  
Blow on us, Lord! Blow our prayer into flame,  
So that our hearts of sticks and thorns and their fickle spark of life  
May somehow serve thy glory. AMEN

O God of Truth,

Whom various men name by various names,  
But who art One, Unique, and the Same,  
Who art That-which-is, Who art in all that is  
And in the union of all who come together,  
Who art in the heights and in the abyss,  
In the heavens without end and the heart's secret shade Like a tiny seed.  
Praised be Thou, Lord, for our prayer fulfilled,  
Since this our prayer is its own fulfillment,  
Since by addressing Thee together, Lord,  
We elevate our will, purify our desire, and are of one accord.  
What more need we ask if that is granted?  
What more need we ask, unless that it should last, Eternal God,  
All through our days and through our nights?  
What more, unless to love Thee enough to love  
All those who pray to Thee as we do,  
Enough to love those who pray and think in other ways,  
Enough to wish good to those who wish us evil,  
Enough to wish good to those who deny Thee or know Thee not,  
The good of return to Thee.  
Give us understanding of thy law, Almighty God,  
Fill us with marveling and merciful respect for every living thing,  
Love with no reverse of hate,  
The Strength and Joy of Peace.

AMEN

(Lanza del Vasto)

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness, light;*

*and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console;*

*to be understood as to understand;*

*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*For it is by forgetting self that one finds.*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*Give us Lord Peace, Strength and Joy*

*And grant that we may give them to others*

*AMEN*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is  
the kingdom of heaven*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called  
sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*AMEN*