

CONVOCATION 2021

# WE ARE GOD'S SOIL



THE **BTS**  
CENTER

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN A  
CLIMATE-CHANGED WORLD

[Convocation2021.org](http://Convocation2021.org)



# CONVOCATION 2021

Convocation Song Booklet  
Compiled by Pax Ressler

\*For use during Convocation 2021 only\*

## Before Me Is Peace

by Pax Ressler

(Text based on a Navajo Prayer)

Before me is peace

*(hands in front)*

Behind me is peace

*(hands over shoulders)*

Below me is peace

*(hands towards the ground)*

Above me is peace

*(hands lifted)*

Around me is peace

*(hands lifted and circling)*

Within me is peace

*(hands crossed over heart)*

Around me is peace

*(hands lifted and circling)*

Within me is peace

*(hands crossed over heart)*

Before me is love...

Before me is hope...



# CONVOCAION 2021

## Come to the Wild

by Rev. Kate Aikins & Pax Ressler

Come to my river  
Bathe in waters of grace  
Don't hold on to your shame  
Or your past mistakes  
Healing water  
Move in freedom  
Wash in my grace

Come to the wild  
Meadows of my design  
Find your place in creation  
Watch the birds in the sky  
Touch the leaves  
Feel the breeze  
Hear you belong

Take courage, step in  
I have carried you through  
Remember the purpose I  
have placed on you  
Fly on the wings of your  
ancestor's songs  
You belong  
You belong

Stand in the strength of a tall maple tree  
Find my roots that grow down, holding tree next to seed  
Holding in, holding on  
Here, you belong



## I Am Willing

by Holly Near

(chorus) I am open and I am willing  
For to be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change

There is hurting in my family  
There is sorrow in my town  
There is panic all across the nation,  
and there is wailing the whole world 'round [chorus]

May the children see more clearly  
May the elders be more wise  
May the winds of change caress us  
Even though they burn our eyes [chorus]

## O Healing River

by Fran Minkoff

Send down your water  
Send down your water  
Upon this land  
O healing river  
Send down your water  
And wash the blood  
From off the sand

This land is parching  
This land is burning  
No seed is growing  
In the barren ground  
O healing river  
Send down your waters  
O healing river  
Send your waters down

Let the seed of freedom  
Awake and flourish  
Let the deep roots nourish  
Let the tall stalks rise  
O healing river  
Send down your water  
O healing river  
From out of the skies



## The Peace of the Earth

(Guatemalan traditional)

The peace of the earth be with you  
The peace of the heavens too  
The peace of the rivers be with you  
The peace of the oceans too

→ Deep peace falling over you  
God's peace growing in you



## The Soil

by Pax Ressler

The soil holds the past  
It shows us where we've been  
The soil unfolds our history  
And knows where we begin

The soil nurtures life  
It grows all that we need  
The soil unfurls a mystery  
And sows a sacred seed

God, let it grow in me  
Send down your rain and light  
And with your help we'll be the  
soil To bring the world to life  
Bring us to life

The soil knows what will come It's  
known it all along  
The soil can hear the distant hum  
Of restoration's song

The soil contains our hope  
It pushes out green shoots  
The soil proclaims the antidote  
Is growing deeper roots

God, let them grow in me  
Send down your rain and light  
And with your help we'll be the soil  
To bring the world to life (repeat)

Bring us to life (3x)



## Use Me

by Pax Ressler

Use me, use me  
To do your will on earth  
To do your will on earth  
Use me, use me  
To do your will on earth  
To do your will on earth

Teach me, Lord, to do the work that you would have me do  
I won't be afraid knowing you will see me through  
Guide me, Lord, to know the ways that you would have me grow  
Call me and I'll go



## We Shall Be Known

by MaMuse

We shall be known by the company we keep  
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires  
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap  
The seeds of change that lie from deep within the earth

It is time now, it is time now that we thrive  
It is time we lead ourselves into the well  
It is time now, and what a time to be alive  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love



## Woyaya

by Osibisa

(Woyaya is Akan for "We are going")

We are going  
heaven knows where we are going  
But we know within  
And we will get there  
heaven knows how we will get there  
But we know we will

It will be hard we know  
And the road will be muddy and rough  
But we'll get there  
heaven knows how we will get there  
But we know we will

Woyaya, woyaya  
Woyaya, woyaya



## You Shall Go Out With Joy

(Dauermann)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace  
The mountains and the hills will break break forth before  
you

There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
As you go out with joy