

Litany for Oak Flat

For Sunday, March 19, 2023

Written by Joanna Lawrence Shenk and Sarah Herrera from First Mennonite Church of San Francisco

One: Loving Creator,

All: We thank you for the land under our feet. We thank you for the peoples who have tended it and continue to tend it in right relationship. May we honor the sacredness of all land as we pray for the land holy to the Apache peoples at Oak Flat.

One: Divine Protector,

All: You know the mountains and the valleys, the ringtail cats and gray squirrels, coyotes and white tail deer, the songbirds and manzanita trees that make home at Oak Flat. By your mighty spirit, we pray for the protection of these beloved creatures that inhabit and bring life to the land of Oak Flat.

One: Jesus who went into the wilderness to seek God,

All: Teach us the power of connection to land, as a holy space to commune with God, as a path of healing away from the distortions and destruction of colonization, and as a guide to where we belong within the broader community of all living things. Reweave us into the fabric of the ecosystems in which we live, so we can claim our interconnectedness with all creation.

One: Holy Spirit of Life,

All: Break open the hearts and transform the minds of policy makers, judges and mining company executives to choose life and protection for the sacred land of Oak Flat. Make a way where there seems to be no way through the crushing weight of greed, extraction and destruction.

One: God of Justice,

All: Empower us to be warriors in prayer and action for the protection of Oak Flat. As one great human family, clothe us with fierce love and clarity of vision as we, in solidarity with the Apache Stronghold, stand against the exploitative powers that seek to destroy their sacred land. Amen.