

Hymn for the Earth

Narrator:

So extravagant is nature with her choicest treasures, spreading beauty as she spreads sunshine,
pouring it forth onto land and sea, garden and desert.
The beauty of lilies falls on angels and men, bears and squirrels, birds and bees,
but as far as I have seen, man alone, and the animals he tames, destroy the garden.
Lumbering bear and trampling deer saunter and feed over the land,
yet never a lily have I seen spoiled by them.

$\text{♩} = 120$
G \flat D \flat G \flat E \flat m7 C \flat G \flat B \flat m Cm7 \flat 5 A \flat m/D \flat G \flat

Children of earth, heirs of all time, treasures of beauty are ours to mind.

Narrator:

Whether my writing vanishes like fallen leaves or goes to friends in letters,
it is nothing compared to the sight of this great wilderness.
No pain here, no dull, empty hours, no fear of the past or future.
The blessed mountains are filled with God's beauty, with no room for our petty hopes and illusions.
Breathing the living air, every movement of limbs is a pure pleasure.
We enter this place with our whole flesh, our souls transparent as crystal.

6 G \flat D \flat G \flat E \flat m7 C \flat G \flat B \flat m Cm7 \flat 5 A \flat m/D \flat G \flat

Liv-ing a-bounds, rich in de-sign, born of a cru-ci-ble deep in time.

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Narrator:

As I wander through the solemn woods in silence, I hear an inner voice cry out, "fear not."

All suffering here is just grist-mill flour.

Man has such trouble gaining food for life, but here it is given in abundance and all are fed.

Why do we sleep in paltry chambers when there is the spacious magnificence of the starry sky,
the fragrance of fir groves?

Here water gathered from all the mountains makes music that could draw angels from the heavens
to listen.

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G \flat D \flat G \flat E \flat m7 C \flat G \flat B \flat m Cm7 \flat 5 A \flat m/D \flat G \flat

Earth is our home, our leg-a-cy, lov-ers and guard-i-ans may we be.

[The readings are inspired by, and adapted from, selections from John Muir's My First Summer in the Sierra (1911): chapter 4 (first reading), chapter 5 (second reading), and chapters 6 and 7 (third reading).]