**Opening Ceremony**

*[Each boldface line indicates a new slide]*

**Welcome slide**

**Opening the Ceremony**

Call to Gather--Ilan Adar blows the shofar

Haudenosaunee prayer by Peter Jemison

Welcome—Rev. Cheryl Frank, Assoc. Pastor, Greece Baptist Church

**Jewish—Sam Asher, Cantor, Nazareth College**

(pending)

**Hindu--Dr. Lakshmi Rao, Hindu Temple of Rochester**

*Sarve Jana sukhino bhavantu*

“Let there be peace on Earth let it begin with me”.

**Buddhist—Dave Whitman, Buddhist Circle meeting at First UU Church**

Even as a mother watches over and protects her child, her only child, so with a boundless mind should one cherish all living beings, radiating friendliness over the entire world, above, below, and all around without limit. So let him cultivate a boundless good will towards the entire world, uncramped, free from all ill-will or enmity.

~from a Mahayana Buddhist Sutra

**Roman Catholic—Ruth Marchetti, Social Ministry Coordinator, Catholic Family Center**

“Laudato si’, mi Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

 This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

~ Pope Francis

**Islamic—Rashid Muhammad, Islamic Center of Rochester**

In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate - We affirm that God is the Lord and Sustainer of all beings; Everything that God creates has value – each thing is created for right. God created the Earth in perfect equilibrium and by God’s immense mercy we have been given fertile land, fresh air, clean water and all the good things on Earth that make our lives here viable and delightful. All these gifts reflect and manifest the boundless glory and mercy of our Creator. Indeed, the world is sweet and verdant, and verily God has made us stewards in it - Let us acquit ourselves well by maintaining the diversity, richness, and vitality of this most wonderful gift by living well and helping all beings live well too – Amen.

**Protestant Prayer—Carol Owens, Genesee Baptist Church**

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through all time and space to all creation, which you called good. You made a covenant with Noah, putting a rainbow in the sky to show your promise of love and blessing to every creature. In Jesus, you invite us into a new covenant, in communion with all who seek you.
As people of faith, we are called into a covenant of love, extending to the whole creation. We pray for the healing of the earth, that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation, and continue to glorify and praise you.
Amen

**Baha’i--Emmalouise St. Amand, Rochester Baha’I Center**

 O my Lord, ...every time I lift up mine eyes unto Thy heaven, I call to mind Thy highness and Thy loftiness, and Thine incomparable glory and greatness; and every time I turn my gaze to Thine earth, I am made to recognize the evidences of Thy power and the tokens of Thy bounty. And when I behold the sea, I find that it speaketh to me of Thy majesty, and of the potency of Thy might, and of Thy sovereignty and Thy grandeur. And at whatever time I contemplate the mountains, I am led to discover the ensigns of Thy victory and the standards of Thine omnipotence.

I swear by Thy might, O Thou in Whose grasp are the reins of all mankind, and the destinies of the nations! I am so inflamed by my love for Thee, and so inebriated with the wine of Thy oneness, that I can hear from the whisper of the winds the sound of Thy glorification and praise, and can recognize in the murmur of the waters the voice that proclaimeth Thy virtues and Thine attributes, and can apprehend from the rustling of the leaves the mysteries that have been irrevocably ordained by Thee in Thy realm.

Baha’u’llah

**Sufi—James Leff, The Sufi Order of Rochester**

Rumi says that the Elements; Earth, Water, Fire and Air, are living beings.

They are servants of the One Being.

The immanence of God is visible in the beauty and fruitfulness of the earth.

We can re-establish communication with the earth through its living representatives, through our attunement to the four elements, for the health of the world.

Attuning to the Element Earth: breathe in through the nose and out through the nose.

Attuning to the Element Water: breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth.

Attuning to the Element Fire: breathe in through the mouth and out through the nose.

Attuning to the Element Fire: breathe in through the mouth and out through the mouth.

**Chant** (for the procession)

May the earth, the fire, the water, the wind return, return, return, return

May the earth, the fire, the water, the wind return, return, return, return

Repeat.