
Community Affirmation

We, who live in the shadow of the mushroom cloud,

We, whose very bones and lungs are threatened even now by radioactivity,

Today declare our hope in the future.

From the diversity of our religious traditions,
We have come this day, from around the world
To renew our belief in the holiness of the earth
and the sanctity of all life.

We declare we are at peace with all people of good will.

We need no leader to define for us an enemy
Nor to tell us what we need security for
And defense against.

Instead we affirm that our earth's security rests not in armaments, but

In the justice of adequate housing and food,
In the justice of meaningful education and work,
In the justice of an economic order that gives everyone access to our earth's abundance,
In the justice of human relationships nourished by cooperation,

We affirm people over property,
Community over privatism,
Respect for others regardless of sex, race or class.

We choose struggle rather than indifference,
We choose to be friends of the earth and of one another rather than exploiters,

We choose to be citizens rather than subjects,
We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers,

We choose a nuclear-free future,
And we will settle for nothing less.

We unite ourselves with sisters and brothers the world over to join together in communities of resistance to the nuclear threat.

We unite ourselves with trust in the Spirit of Life;
Justice and love can overcome the machines of destruction.

Before use today are set life and death.

We choose life, that we and our children may live.
Let it be so.

—written for the International Religious Convocation, June 11, 1982
