EarthCare (K-6th Grade): ORDER

Power Points for Teachers:

- God is all good and active in everything, everywhere.
- I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.
- I do my best by living the Truth I know. I make a difference!

ORDER as spiritual power / for the Teachers:

Building on the introduction to the idea of our 12 spiritual powers, now explore the spiritual power of Order. "Order, in Divine Mind, is an idea of unfolding, of evolution." (Ella Pomeroy, Powers of the Soul) Humans love to create order; examples: calendars, consistent holiday celebrations, traditions, etc. By exploring the 12 Spiritual Powers (as understood in Unity) with children, we are learning about the spiritual power of order, Divine Order, and how we express this. Divine Order manifests in ways that evolve the good for all; not just for the humans. Divine Order is the creative, intelligent, order for making positive change to influence all for life to flourish. Divine Order assists us in orderly ways for growing divine ideas with our actions, choices, and skills. Example: humans have ideas for making the earth healthier for the creatures that manifest as actions—reducing use of plastic toys by creating toys from cardboard boxes, or, wood, and old scraps of fabric. OR, thinking of new ways to reuse our resources. OR, exploring ways to compost plastic.

Supplies:

- Coloring pages: https://iheartcraftythings.com/earth-day-coloring-pages.html
- Name Tags, stickers, markers, Crayons
- Prayer Request forms, pens, pencils
- "I Am DIVINE ORDER" Mandala coloring page
- Plants for circle time/ large cups for watering

Books: Places of Power by Michael DeMunn; Starbright Meditations For Children by Maureen Garth

Pre-session Activities (20 min):

Name Tag Station – Invite the children to make their own name tags when they come into the room. Prayer Request - Invite children to complete a prayer request form.

I AM DIVINE ORDER Mandala Coloring Page

Opening

Welcome children and invite them into a circle: Let them know we're studying our 12 spiritual powers. Let them know the power of Divine Order will be explored to help us understand better ways of taking care of ourselves and our planet.

Song

I've Got Peace Like A River, Unity Wings of Song hymnal, 356

Sacred Circle:

- **Breathe: (Facilitator)** Remind the children to breathe. Ask them if they can see their breath as they exhale. To center, breathe in a deep breath, then sigh it out so they can hear themselves. Repeat with the next breath, then have them laugh on the out breath. One last time, breathe in calmness, and exhale calmness.
- Opening Prayer: (Facilitator)
 - Take a centering breath (while holding the plant in a cup). Thank you God for my life. Thank you God for our earth home where plants and animals grow. Thank you God for learning about order. Thank you God for ideas that help us take care of the earth, and order to grow our ideas. We pray we will take care of the divine ideas so they can grow big and help our earth. Amen
- **Light the Christ Candle:** Ask one of the children to light the Christ candle. Remind the students that we light the Christ candle to remind each of us that we have the power to live a life of love like Jesus!
- Who is Jesus for us in Unity? Ask one of the children to share who Jesus is. Remind the children Jesus is our way-shower, the great master of love. The candle reminds us that we are the light as Jesus was the light. (If there is conversation redirect and remind, we focus on how Jesus lived, not on how he died.)
- Affirmation: I Am living Divine Order, my power to grow ideas and help the earth and the animals. (Invite the children to repeat this.)
- **Heart Agreements**: Ask each child to take one of the heart agreements and share what it means.
- Love Offering: Divine Love, Blesses and multiples, all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive. And I am joy-filled and grateful. (FYI: the children may place lots of things besides money in the love offering basket: joy, friendship, peace, love, etc. Ask the children to share what they are placing in the basket.)
- Watering of plants: We give back to the plants which create the air we breathe. (all children should have a chance to place their hands on the water cups)

Discussion & Experience: ORDER

Quote – "Order, in Divine Mind, is an idea of unfolding, of evolution." Ella Pomeroy, Powers of the Soul **Scripture** – "The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head." Mark 4:28 NRSV

Questions:

Give a chance for the children to talk about their earth home. Where do they live on the planet? What bio-region do they live in (Great Lakes; mountain; desert; etc). Ask: What can you tell me about our home, Earth? Foster curiosity and love. Ask: What changes have you noticed? Be prepared for their fear about the future. Remind them we are learning about our God powers, Divine Powers, and how this helps us help the earth. We build our lives and our world with the power of love, and wisdom. We take care of the earth and the animals with the help of the power of Divine Order by making order for our ideas to grow through our choices and actions.

Order Question: I wonder what is yours to do for the earth, or for the earth's creatures, water and air? What is your inner wisdom, and your love, suggesting you do? Do you know how to do this? What would you do first? second? third? (Children need prompts and appreciate exploring and finding out what they can do right where they are—on Sunday, at church; consider a tour of the building and the grounds.)

Experience of working with Divine Order: Make a large poster of ideas across the top. Under each idea draw pictures of the order of actions the children want to take as next steps. Save this in your classroom for a regular check-in. Problem solve and prayerfully ask for guidance for next steps each step.

Stretch

Simple exercises that involve order and are intriguing. Ex. Those with blue eyes, clap their hands. Those with brown eyes, pat their stomachs. Keep switching up ways to create order. Lining up shortest to tallest; oldest to youngest; hungriest to fullest. Sorting items by color. Stretching the shortest muscles. Stretching the longest muscles.

Meditation

Starbright Meditations For Children, by Maureen Garth, is a book that offers guided meditations with rich imagery, including the earth. Children love to visit the worry tree and leave their worries.

Closing Prayer

We are thankful for the new ideas we have received. It is good to learn the Truth. I am made by God to be wise. My choices make a difference for the planet.