

## Touchstones Project Theme: Circle of Life

The earth. One planet. Round, global, so that when you trace its shape with your finger, you end up where you started. It's one. It's whole. All the dotted lines we draw on our maps of this globe are just that, dotted lines. They smear easily. Oceans can be crossed. Even the desert can be crossed. The grain that grows on one side of the border tastes just as good as the grain on the other side. Moreover, bread made from rice is just as nourishing to body and spirit as bread made from corn, or spelt or teff or wheat or barley. There is no superior land, no chosen site, no divine destiny falling on any one nation who draws those dotted lines just so. There is only one earth we all share, we, the living, with all else that lives and does not live. Everything, everything, for good or ill, is part of the shared whole: sky, earth, song, words and now, this silence. *Rev. Mark Belletini*



My dear great, great, great grandchildren, ... / Forgive us our debts, for we have burdened you with so much. I hope that whatever positive efforts we have made will have lightened your burden. I suspect that ...you will still have much work to do.... Continue to look forward and trust that things will work out. ...If we humans survive it will not be because of the “great ones,” but because of the unsung wisdom and creativity of countless, nameless people. Honor us insofar as what we did give you a chance to carry on. Forgive us for everything we saddled you with. Remember that you also carry in your genes the ‘blind spots’ that need mutual care and correction. Look up at night and recall that some of the light that reaches you comes from stars long gone. Keep whatever is beautiful from us before your eyes and create even more precious work for your grandchildren. Remember us who refused to forget you. Hope and love from an old and foolish great, great, great grandfather. *Arthur Dewey*

## Join us in exploring the Circle of Life

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