

Co-Mingling Chant

Speed = \approx 94

lightly
(add movement as inspired)

(A)

(A) *last time*

(B) *(add movement as inspired)*

(C)

(D) *rain stick* *(slow)* tilt - - - - - *(slow)* tilt other way ...

(E)

v.1 Grow - ing Cos - mos, cir - cling pla - nets,
 ming - ling all a - round

v.2 Grow - ing life forms, cir - cling Ea - gle,
 ming - ling from Sky to ground

v.3 Growing ge - odes, cir - cling a - toms,
 ming - ling all the way down

v.4 Grow - ing in - sight, cir - cling whole - ness,
 ming - ling where love is found

v.5 Birth - ing breath - ing li - ving dy - ing
 to all we are sound *(see p. 10 for last line)*

Words & music - Shari Woodbury 7-18-12

Co-Mingling Chant

Key to Chanting:

Layer in voices as follows, first adding them in one at a time, then alternating C and the D verses in the middle, then dropping them out one at a time. "x 2" means sing the line twice through before another voice is added or dropped.

A x 4 . . . (continue) A x 2 A x 2 (hold 2 m.)
* B x 4 . . . (continue) B x 2
C x 2 C x 2 C x 2 C x 2 C x 2 C x 2
D x 2 . . . (continue) D x 2
Ev.1 Ev.2 Ev.3 Ev.4 Ev.5*

* E sings last phrase ("to all we are bound") 3 times – 1st as usual, a 2nd time forte (loud), the 3rd time piano (quiet).

Optional Movement:

- Voices A, B, and C can be invited to add movements spontaneously once they are in a groove with their respective vocal parts. (E folks will probably need to hold lyrics to keep track of their verses.)
- Alternatively, D and E parts could stand in the center while A, B and C voices link hands and circle around them. A, B, and C move one direction for 4 measures, then the other direction for 4 measures, continuing to alternate in an undulating, wave-like motion.

Uses:

- This could be used as a community-building or centering experience in any small church group – a campus ministry group, high school group, men's or women's group, covenant group, Green Sanctuary task force, etc.
- The chant could also be done at a retreat or church camp, such as the "Earth-Celebrational, All-Congregational, Intergenerational, UU Retreat" that my home church holds annually.
- Lastly, it could be incorporated into Sunday morning worship with the full congregation. Another group like one of the above that has mastered the chant could perform it, or the choir could do it. (I suggest A – altos, B – tenors, C – basses, E – sopranos, plus someone on the rain stick.) Another option is to print or project the verses from part E and teach that part to the congregation, with the music director conducting the whole thing.

Background:

This chant was inspired by lots of great chanting in the paganism class with Margot Adler; by process theology (dynamic, interrelated, all-natural reality); by love of nature and the grief and urgency that come from awareness of our present path of destruction; and by mystic perception, as captured in the following words of William James (quoted in Madeleine L'Engle's *Walking On Water*):

Our lives are like islands in the sea, or like trees in the forest, which co-mingle their roots in the darkness underground. Just so, there is a continuum of cosmic consciousness, against which our individuality builds but accidental fences, and into which our several minds plunge as into a mother sea or reservoir.