BUDDHIST PRAYER/GATHAS

Thank you to Emyo Bizub and Seijaku Roshi of The Zen Society for these contributions.

Turning on the water
Water comes from high mountain sources.  
Water runs deep in the Earth.  
Miraculously, water comes to us and sustains all life.  
My gratitude is filled to the brim.

Washing Your Hands
Water flows over these hands.  
May I use them skillfully  
to preserve our precious planet.

Watering the Plants
Don’t think you are cut off, dear plant.  
This water comes to you from the Earth and sky.  
You and I have been together  
since beginningless time.

Watering the Garden
The sunshine and the water  
have brought about this luxurious vegetation.  
The rain of compassion and understanding  
can transform the dry desert into a vast fertile plain.

Changing Water in a Vase
Water keeps the flower fresh.  
The flower and I are one.  
When the flower breathes, I breathe.  
When the flower smiles, I smile.


Note: Thich Nhat Hanh states in his introduction that the gathas were originally compiled by Chinese meditation master Duti.

Earth Prayer
We gently caress you, the Earth, our planet and our home.  
Our vision has brought us closer to you, making us aware of the harm we have done to the life-network upon which we ourselves depend.  
We are reminded that we have poisoned your waters, your lands, your air.  
We have filled you with the bones of our dead from war and greed.  
Your pain is our pain.  
Touching you gently, we pray that we may become peace-bringers and life-bringers so that our home in its journey around the Sun not become a sterile and lonely place.  
May this prayer and its power last forever.

-- Sensei Ulrich, Manitoba Buddhist Temple 3