

# Equality of Love, Justice, and Pride

By Rev. Michael J Dangler

In 2004, Ohio passed a ban on same-sex marriages. Since then, the clergy and members of Three Cranes Grove, ADF, have become more and more deeply involved in movements that seek equality and justice for all people. While the Grove does not endorse political candidates or specific issues, we do endorse the fundamental human right of every person to love as they see fit. These prayers are a result of our interfaith work with the marriage equality movement, the gay pride movement, and our general acknowledgment that all human beings are a part of our community that deserves the respect humans should be afforded.

## Prayer for Equality of Love

By Rev. Michael J Dangler

*We are all Children of the Earth,  
Equally drawn from her bosom  
And formed by divine hands.  
Each of us is animated by the same breath  
And given the same capacity for love.*

*As we march upon the Earth seeking justice,  
Let the Earth Mother support us  
And the divine show us the heights we may reach.  
Let our voices arise as smoke from a holy fire  
And our words resound in the depths of the world.*

*Let all who love, love equally.*

## Prayer for Justice

By Rev. Michael J Dangler

*Within each of us, we find a just balance:  
A well of caring and love within our hearts;  
A fire of knowledge burning brightly in our heads.  
With these two working in concert,  
We know right from wrong  
And can fight for justice  
And recognize inequality where it stands.  
As we seek this well and this fire within ourselves,  
Let us be ever mindful of the balance they bring,  
And joyous at the light their synthesis brings  
To shine out and cleanse the darkness of hate and fear.  
Let us be filled with this light,  
Let the work of our hands spread it,*

*And let the joy in our hearts compound it.  
So be it.*

The following prayer was spoken to close the Interfaith Pride Service in Columbus, OH, and kick off the Pride Parade. It was written to serve as a bridge between the end of the service and the beginning of the march.

### **Gay Pride Parade Prayer, 2008**

By Rev. Michael J Dangler

*"I am Rev. Michael J Dangler, of Three Cranes Grove, ADF, a local Druid fellowship. We have always felt it was important to celebrate Pride, for we are all Children of the Earth Mother. Whether we believe were formed from clay and given life by the breath of a deity; made up of the elements of the periodic table; or born directly from the Mother herself, we all share our one Earth Mother. As we prepare to depart, we will ask for blessings from our Earth Mother this day. Thank you for coming to this service, and thank the organizers for holding it. It is our tradition, though you need not follow it, to kneel and touch the ground as we call out to the Earth."*

*Earth Mother, your children call out to you.  
You uphold us as we move through life, with each step we take.  
Let every step we take upon you today in pride and unity  
Be a step toward justice, understanding, and love.*

*Let us follow the footsteps of our Ancestors  
Who blazed trails long before us and fought for what was right.  
Let us hear the blessings of the Nature Spirits  
Who play among the trees and upon the wind.  
And let us go forth with the strength of the Shining Ones  
The deities we follow and love.*

*Earth Mother, mighty Kindreds,  
Bless our steps this day, and uphold us even in adversity.*

*Children of the Earth,  
Go in peace and blessings:  
This service is ended.*