

Benediction

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The Inauguration of Thomas R. Rochon

April 17, 2009

“Sovereign of the Universe”

At this gala ceremony of inauguration, we end with a moment of sobriety . . .

In every generation the wise teach us

that change is the only constant, the one certainty.

The evidence that humankind and its civilization are in profound flux
is both overwhelming and alarming.

It is quite possible that many of these changes in the human world and the world of nature
could spell our doom.

We stand at the brink of something momentous in great uncertainty
and we know it intuitively or directly.

This is not a feeling we humans are comfortable with.

Now more than ever we need leaders who are not only smart and savvy
but who are also touched by wisdom.

Now more than ever we need to call upon our deepest resources
to enable us to step back from folly.

Now more than ever we need to proceed boldly yet humbly
with the effort to heal ourselves and repair our home, this mother earth.

As a species, we will ripen and mature
or we'll drop suddenly from the tree of life and disappear; it's that simple.

So if you are a theist, please speak to the god that you name,

if you are a nontheist, please speak to your higher power,

and if you don't know what you believe, please speak to the voice in your inmost heart.

Pray that our newly installed president be guided by the hands of right thinking and right
motivation.

Pray that our new leader always has the wits to do the right thing for the right reason.

Pray that he never loses his sense of humor in these shifting and difficult times.

We expect our leaders to be all things to all people, even though they cannot.

That only works if you have the same expectation of yourself, which we rarely do.

Therefore, even as you pray for Tom Rochon to give us the best of himself all of the time,
add yourself to the same prayer.

That's how to weather all storms,
succeed in our collective mission as educators,
and contribute to the redemption of our world.

For this we pray.

Amen.