

## **Night Prayer: Holy Ground: Tread Gently**

**You will need: Candle, paper footprints, pens**

*Please feel free to take off your shoes and make yourself comfortable*

God of fire and burning bush  
Come meet us on holy ground  
Come sit with us  
Inspire and challenge us  
Dazzle us with your creation

God of surprises  
Come meet us on holy ground  
Come sit with us  
Move and provoke us  
Startle us with your beauty

Song: Come, Holy Spirit  
Come, Holy Spirit  
Maranatha  
Come, Lord, come

Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

We confess that we are in danger of losing connection with the earth.

We have lost the art of walking bare foot on bare soil.  
We forget that we do not own the ground we walk on  
We seldom tread gently enough

**Forgive us, loving God**

We confess that we are in danger of losing connection with each other

We stand alone rather than walk side by side  
We stamp our feet and make selfish demands  
We tread on each others' toes

**Forgive us, loving God. Amen**

Where is holy ground?

Holy ground is found at home, at work, in city streets and on Welsh beaches

Holy ground is where we have come from and where we are heading

Holy ground is under our feet and in places where we fear to tread.

What does holy ground look like?

Holy ground is grass and mud, sand and puddles

Holy ground is cracked pavements and polished shop floors

Holy ground is finding beauty in ordinary places

What does holy ground feel like?

Holy ground is soft underfoot, it caresses your feet

Holy ground is strong and firm, supporting your tiredness

Holy ground is flowers springing up and hot coals burning

Who stands on holy ground?

We do. Strangers, friends, fellow travellers

Recognising each other

Standing together on the same holy ground

*Where do you find holy ground? Please take a few minutes to write on the footprints that are scattered around. When you have finished, come and place them in the centre, near the candle.*

The world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to be at home."  
*(Wendell Berry)*

Taize chant: Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies away, that never dies away.