

MARK NATIONAL AFFIRMING/PIE DAY BY CREATING A

# MORNING ALTAR

to express your commitment to  
take 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusivity and justice seriously



PUBLIC. INTENTIONAL. EXPLICIT.



## P.I.E. DAY MARCH 14

The next National Affirming/PIE Day is Tuesday, March 14, 2023. You can plan something for that day, or any time that week! Find more information and share your event at [pieday.ca](http://pieday.ca)



## MORNING ALTARS

Morning Altars is a prayerful, artful practice of foraging and gathering natural materials to create an altar. This template will invite you and your community to take these concepts to build your altar together. Learn more about the practice of Morning Altars and the book at [morningaltars.com](http://morningaltars.com)



National Affirming/PIE Day was co-founded by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections to set aside a special day every year to celebrate the full inclusion of LGBTQ2SIA+ people in faith communities and beyond. [affirmingconnections.com](http://affirmingconnections.com) | [affirmunited.ause.ca](http://affirmunited.ause.ca)



Shining Waters Regional Council is an Affirming region in The United Church of Canada.  
[www.shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca](http://www.shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca)



# CREATING AN ALTAR



An altar's purpose is to sanctify something and offer it up to a higher source.  
Day Schildkret, Morning Altars



## CONSIDER + COLLECT

Forage/gather the natural materials to create your altar. Let the materials speak to you --celebrate the diversity with colour, or the steadfast love of the Creator with stones, or the promise of potential in a seed. How can you express your own intentions through elements that you find in your environment? For example, add some berries to reflect your desire to be a place of nourishment.



## CREATE

Choose a visible outdoor spot for your altar. Clear and prepare the space. Artfully arrange your materials into a design that reflects your intention. Is it about diversity, openness, growth and change, being enduring? What does it mean to create and hold 2SLGBTQIA+ space in your community?



## INVITE

Gather your community around the altar and express your intentions. Lift up your altar as an offering with prayers, songs and symbols. Invite people to contribute to the design by lighting candles, or creating a border. Give your altar a name together.



## SHARE

Include time for conversation and refreshment. Share some pie! Encourage people to take photos and to share the story of what the altar means. #AFFIRMINGPIEDAY.

# NOTES

## COLLECTING MATERIALS

Be mindful about what and where you collect. Consider adding a particular element to your design as an acknowledgement of traditional Indigenous territory. Decide if you will let your altar return to the earth naturally or if you will need to collect it up at the end.

## DESIGNING AND CREATING

You can lay down a piece of canvas and add soil/sand for a base if you don't want to build directly on the ground. Although it's possible to design and create as a group, it's easier if one or two people create the design and assemble the altar before people arrive. Invite people to gather around the finished piece. Some materials can be saved to add around the border, either encircling the design or completing a pattern. Make a large altar if you intend on gathering a large group. For inspiration see altars and installations at [morningaltars.com](http://morningaltars.com).

## SAMPLE OPENING

The Creator of Life is with us, as we encircle this offering we have created here today -- a public sign of our intention to be explicit about our commitment to justice and inclusion of people of all sexual and gender identities. Everyone is welcome here, this circle has lots of room.

## RITUAL OF INTENTION

Create an opportunity for people to contribute. For example, invite them to complete the prayer: May this be a place of \_\_\_\_; or, We remember and give thanks for \_\_\_\_\_. As they offer their petition they can also add their element to the border of altar. Possible elements: pebbles, petals, pine cones, tea lights/lanterns, seeds (as long as that works in the location). Alternatively a bowl of water with a branch could be used and people can add blessings with a spray of water. It's a good idea to model a few offerings at the beginning and to consider the length of time it will take based on the size of the group.

## SAMPLE CLOSING

Our offering today is impermanent, it has already begun to change since we have arranged it and it will eventually make it's way back to the earth. May our bold and beautiful witness that we have shared here today live on in our community. Carry it with you in hearts and hands that create hospitality and work for justice. Share it out with your friends and networks on social media. Go in peace and may the blessing of the Creator of Life go with you.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Created by Susie Henderson, Shining Waters Regional Council, for Affirming P.I.E. Day 2023 with gratitude and respect to my teacher Day Schildkret at [morningaltars.com](http://morningaltars.com). See [Morning Altars: a 7 Step Practice to Nourish Your Spirit through Nature, Art and Ritual](#). Susie is a certified Morning Altars facilitator. Cover image: Lady Nouveau @ Morning Altars, used with permission. Description: Richmond, CA. Made from golden bell flower, princess flower, eucalyptus bark, red berry, abutilon striatum, deodar cedar pine, echium candicans, earth. Intention: COME OUT... the time to remain hidden is ending.