Who Is the Neighbor

Who is the neighbor I must love and care for? What stranger lies here, wound-ed and al- one?
Can it be true that we are made of star-dust like tree and stone, like crea-tures great and small?
This is our home, a planet now in per-il. What must we do to care for Moth-er Earth?
Cre-a-tor God, you made us for com-mu-nion; my life with ev-ery oth-er is en-twined.

I reach out to oth-ers yet un-known? This is the time, the whale and leop-ard, broth-ers of us all?
This is the time, the world that nur-tures old and young from birth. This is the time, the pre-cious thread en-han-cing your de-sign.

mo-ment I am giv-en to free-ly share the love I have been shown. mo-ment we are giv-en to claim our kin, re-spond-ing to their call.
mom-ent we are giv-en to bold-ly wit-ness ev-ery be-ing's worth. serve your great en-deavor, that all you love, a-bun-dant life may find.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 2015, Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, Minnesota 56374
Tune: CLAIMING KIN, Mark Sedio © 2015
Meter: 11 10 11 10 11 10
Sources: Luke 10:25-37; also Gensis 4:9; John 10:10; Galatians 6:2
Themes: Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that the person in need is the neighbor whom God commands us to love; we are given the present moment as an opportunity to care for God’s beloved creation, now fragile and in urgent need of our attention; human beings share the DNA of all creation, and the well-being of each one affects all the others.
Use: Year C: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Year A: 4th Sunday of Easter; worship services reflecting on the goodness of creation and our responsibility to care for it