



Church for Our Common Home

*dedicated to Mother Earth,
the Divine Feminine, Loving Community and the Arts*
Come love and be loved by the natural world at the Secret Garden Retreat Center at the
John Cobb Eco Farm
and sing, dance and feast with us at the Mary Magdalene Café!

Nov. 5, 2023 Taize

Blackbirds in the Dark

Dedicated to the Children of Gaza and may we

care for all the world's children as if they were our own

The Secret Prayer Garden is an interfaith Living Rosary with 12 Tree Stations inviting prayers for the interconnected web of life, the wilderness, the soil, water, green plants, the air and music, mother and children of all species, the sun, moon and galaxies of stars, wild animals underground and

under water, wild animals above ground, the winged creatures, the beauty of the natural world and the human family and the natural world living in harmony. We share the story of the betrayal, torture, death and the regeneration of Mother Earth. Join us with the animals, trees, plants etc. in the barn (weather permitting) for Sunday weekly worship at the John Cobb Eco Farm, 4 pm pst. Retreat stays are available.

Church for Our Common Home—a home and internet church, retreat center and counseling center exploring biodynamic farming with a community art studio and eARTh Art Gallery in the Barn, 15435 Strong Road, Dallas, OR 97338, We are a non-profit 501 C3 that provides artistic, religious and psychological services to awaken to the moral and ecological crisis as an invitation for spiritual growth and loving community with all of creation, caring for our common home, Mother Earth.

Minister- Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, (858) 248-5123 revtarwater@yahoo.com, www.churchforourcommonhome.com

Director Our Common Home Counseling Center Dr. Walter Rutherford (858) 442-6472 walterrutherford44@gmail.com Services include, individual and group therapy, addiction issues, PTSD, relationship counseling, Spiritual Direction, pastoral counseling and dream honoring. We believe our current ecologic crisis is a call to awaken to the reverence of life and the truth that all nature is alive, sacred and our earth is one organic whole. As we witness the sixth extinction of life on earth, the only one created by us humans, we are invited to reclaim the ancient wisdom traditions. We are interbeings, interspecies, and an interconnected whole. What we do affects everyone else. Every Sunday at 4 pm we acknowledge that we need one another more than ever before and commune with God called by many names. We celebrate the wisdom traditions from the East, West, indigenous peoples, new science as we study the teachings of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Bible as well as newly found gnostic gospels. We pray together and to ask for God's help to find new ways to live in peace and love with all creation. **Board of Directors**, Walter Rutherford- President, Juan Ibarra CPA- Treasurer, Martha Garcia-Secretary, Rev. Bonnie Tarwater-Minister Tax deductible donations to Church for Our Common Home, pay pal, credit card, check,cash and other gifts welcome. THANK YOU! Please send us new clients and referrals for Our Common Home Counseling Center and the Secret Garden Retreat Center for proceeds go to fund Church for Our Common Home.

Invitations and Announcements: Intercessory Prayer Circle, contact Bonnie with prayer requests. Weekly Dream Group every Thursday 4 pm PST, Lectio Divina Tuesday 9-10 (reflecting on scripture for the following Sunday). Please contact Rev. Bonnie if you would like a pastoral visit in person or on Zoom or phone and/or if you would like to pray or have prayer requests. Our worship and meeting link on **Zoom ID 3025719458** and this number is always on church website homepage.

Molly Howell's workshop beginning this Thursday evening in Salem "Gone to Seed: An experimental community seminar" 11/2,9,16,30, 12/7,14,21 6-8 pm moved to the "Farm" mollyhowell@proton.me

Eddie Jessup writing grants for us A MIRACLE!!! Thank you Eddie. We love you soooooooooooooo much!

Weekly Interfaith Prayer Vigil 10 am Saturday's Beginning November 11 Benton County Courthouse 5th & Monroe Ave, Corvallis Cosponsored by Peace and Justice Strategies Office, School of History, Philosophy and Religion OSU and Church for Our Common Home

Earth Crisis Support Group and Potluck Parties Dallas Oregon every Saturday 4-6 pm here at the John Cobb Eco Farm. Nancy Mahoney's group meets monthly in Woodstock NY.



The Global Nonviolent Action Database [Home | Global Nonviolent Action Database \(swarthmore.edu\)](http://swarthmore.edu) provides free access to information about hundreds of cases of nonviolent action, from all continents and most countries, for learning and for citizen action. The database is a project of Swarthmore College

Check out [Live and Learn on Organic Farms - WWOOF USA](#) and our profile will soon be live. Volunteers from around the world come to work on organic farms and receive room and board. Please welcome and hold Jaxon and Niko in your heart and prayers.

Please read, *America on the Brink, How US Foreign Policy Led to the War in Ukraine* and *The Christian Gospel for Americans*, by David Ray Griffin and will be explored in worship for 2023.

Krystle Angela Garcia- Seremeo's friend join her in SD with We All We Got SD , <http://weallwegotSD.com/> and [Abolitionist Collective | Detention Resistance](#)

Kevin Clark is getting married! Please put messages in the chat for us to send a congratulations card.

Church in the Park for the homeless in Salem event, *Widening the Circle of Belonging* Chemeketa Community College EOLA campus, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd. NW Salem, 97304, \$25 Wednesday Nov 8, 5-7:30 pm

Some alternative news sources include Code Pink, www.codepink.org, the Poor People's Campaign, www.poorpeoplescampaign.org, Living Earth Movement, www.livingearthmovement.eco, "to inspire global cooperation for the sake of all life on our planet, beginning with the United States and China." Democracy Now (Free speech TV) Chris Hedges,(Pulitzer prize winning journalist and Christian minister) OpEd News, Popular Resistance, YES! Magazine, Common Ground, [100 Best Liberal Political Blogs and Websites in 2023 \(feedspot.com\)](#)

Please sign up for Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib newsletter on her website. She is the only Palestinian American in Congress. [Home - Rashida Tlaib \(house.gov\)](http://house.gov) (Thank you Nancy)

Honoring the Kalapuyan People We give thanks for the miracle of God's creation here in Dallas, Oregon. We invite prayers of gratitude for this sacred place. This was the homeland of the Kalapuyan people before the colonizers came and inflicted genocide on the native peoples, the land, plants, animals and eco systems. We confess these sins and ask for forgiveness and promise to make amends. We apologize for all the harm many of our ancestors did to the indigenous peoples and the natural world in this place and in the Americas. We commit to truth telling and working to make amends for the harm done. Truth and reconciliation will set us free!

Lighting of the Black Madonna of the America's-- Our Lady of Guadalupe Candle Blackbird call: Caw, Caw, Caw Meditation "For us, the raven embraces a future different from what the dove heralds, an alternative story that may, from time to time, **give hope of survival** to those not chosen for inclusion, to those who cannot glide away from violence; an invitation to imagine a world of widened refuge instead of the severe closure of arks."

12 Step program for an Ecological Civilization The Secret Prayer Garden invites interfaith prayers for the Earth at the John Cobb Eco Farm with twelve Tree Prayer Stations over five acres. Church for Our Common Home works for an Ecologic Civilization with our 12-step program.



1. Share the truth that the current 6th extinction of life on Earth, the only one created by humans, is an invitation for transformation as a human species.
2. Share the history and human habits of dominant over relationships and commit to relationships of collaboration, partnership and co-creativity.
3. Make amends for our alienation and abuse of the natural world and our idolatry of scientism and rationalism using transdisciplinary reconnections of religion, art, psychology, ecology, etc.
4. Explore eco-feminist and process theology, celebrating God and Goddess language, symbols and relationships.
5. Study the teachings of Jesus and Mary Magdalene and their Church of Love highlighting the radical teachings and the way of doing unto the least of these, love of enemies and service to God not money, with newly found gnostic scriptures and the world's ancient wisdom traditions.
6. Offer diverse spiritual practices to develop loving relationships with the natural world, Mother Earth and all creation.
7. Honor the invisible realms of dreams, prayer, intuition, parapsychology and imagination.
8. Celebrate the visual and performing arts, ritual making, beauty and creativity as divine spiritual practice.
9. Celebrate intergenerational community by intentionally including and honoring the very young and old.
10. Encourage consciousness raising with integration of body, sexuality, mind, spirit, feelings, intuition and imagination.
11. Work for social justice locally and globally in partnership with other organization
12. Experiment with nontraditional church in order to create relevant, spirit filled and loving community.

Musical Invocation for our 4.5-billion-years old Mother! Our *Dear, Dear Mother* by Raffi (Chorus)

Earth our 4.5-billion-years old Mother! Our dear, dear Mother, daily provider, earth be your name the time has come to honor you to know you and to show our love. You give us each day our daily grain kissed by the sun and kissed by the rain. Teach us now to find a way to care for you in our work and play.

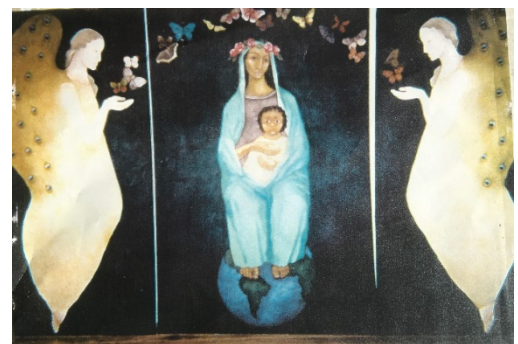
Love, love, love, love, earthlings this, this is your call. Love your God with your heart soul and mind for God loves us all. (repeat)

Passing of the Peace (Unmute and share greetings)

God Loves You and There is Nothing You Can Do About It!

Welcoming Angels, Ancestors and Spirits to Worship God said to Teresa of Avila, "Now I no longer want you to speak with men, but with angels."

(Artist Kathleen Kline's gift to us) Angels welcome in this sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true, with thanksgiving we'll be a living sanctuary for you. (by John Thompson and Randy Scuggs)



All night all day, angels watchin over me. If I die before I wake, angels watchin over me my Lord. Pray my soul, the Lord will take, angels watchin over me, angels watchin over me..... Down inside the earth with angels, down inside the earth, when I die hallelujah by and by, I'll return to Mother Earth.

Walt and Bonnie: News from the Secret Garden Retreat Center at the John Cobb Eco Farm

Musical Prayers *I Talk to the Trees* (composed by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner from *Paint Your Wagon* adapted by Bonnie, please unmute and sing with and for the animals)

I talk to the trees and they are listening to me. I talk to the stars, and they always hear me. The breeze has the time, to stop, and hear what I say. I talk to them all in love. We sing with chickens and ducks and they are clucking and quacking in song. We dance with cats and dogs, who teach us love and joy. We pray for goats and sheep here on the John Cobb Eco Farm. We pray for them all in love.

Taize Invitation to Descend into the Dark with Ravens, Mary Magdalene and the Black Madonna

Everyone Caw and call the blessings of the Black Raven, the Black Madonna into our hearts, our church, our nation and the world.

Scripture Genesis 8:6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

And from the **Song of Songs 5:11** (NRSV) 'His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven.'

Silence

Chant Blackbird singing in the dead of night Take these broken wings and learn to fly All your life You were only waiting for this moment to arise. (repeat)

Reading: Emergence Magazine Vol. 4 Essay Ravens and Doves by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Julina Yates "The fate of the dove is to become not only a messenger and a sacrifice but also an enduring symbol. The dove is transformed out of its animal particularity and subsumed into a story about men and women and their relation to divinity—an allegorically enhanced pigeon. The raven, on the other hand, goes its own way. It refuses to participate in anthropocentric reductions. The raven has other ideas, other places to be. The raven demonstrates that even though the stories we tell about catastrophe can seem inevitable in their conclusions, other stories—many, many stories, in fact—are possible. The raven's tale is never one, but several. To follow the raven's flight is to make peace with the unpredictable, to concede that there are many ways of living in the difficult world, plots we may never know or fully understand. Better still, to follow the raven is to understand that there is no single arc to this story, that the stories we tell of endurance during ecological catastrophe—if they are to do more than ensure the safety of small collectives—must be manifold."

Silence

Chant Blackbird singing in the dead of night Take these sunken eyes and learn to see All your life You were only waiting for this moment to be free. (repeat)

Reading: Emergence Magazine “The tale we are following in this essay is about charismatic doves and earthbound ravens. It’s about the invitational gaps in the Genesis account: missing pieces of the biblical story that over the centuries have invited readers to fill in and then inhabit the challenges of living with the change in the weather, of dwelling fully within instead of floating above the injustices of life during catastrophe. All kinds of stories that do not appear in Genesis have been loaded into the ark over the centuries. Some of them are about what gets left out but keeps circling back, surfacing again, refusing to drown, maybe even finding in the lost world the material to build something better, some shelter regardless or in spite of arks. For us, the raven embraces a future different from what the dove heralds, an alternative story that may, from time to time, give hope of survival to those not chosen for inclusion, to those who cannot glide away from violence; an invitation to imagine a world of widened refuge instead of the severe closure of arks. What happens to those who were never promised a rainbow?”

Silence

Chant Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.
(repeat)

Reading: Walter Wink, *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces That Determine Human Existence* “It has become our destiny today that the way to God should lead us first down into the depths, to encounter God in the darkness there—not in order to return purified to face God, but as the physicist Alfred Romer put it, because the darkness is where God is.”

Silence

Chant Blackbird fly Blackbird fly (repeat) Into the light of the dark black night.

Reading: Emergence Magazine “How difficult it must be to find yourself the lowly raven in Noah’s tale, left out from allegorical uplift, a creature among other creatures, tracing an animal path. Or, perhaps, how liberating to be left behind by a story intent on an elsewhere that demands as its price of admission the abandonment of the particular, the personal, the carnal, the mundane. Although the Hebrew word used in Genesis implies that the bird never completes its mission but goes perpetually back and forth from the ark (Gen. 8:7), most interpreters of the Noah story hold that the reconnaissance raven never returns to life with Noah and his family. Although we are not told why, we can well imagine. What scavenger would not, in the carnage of the deluge, find a paradise? When the dove is sent to undertake the labor of the wayward raven, the second searcher returns with a sign of hope for human futurity, “a freshly plucked olive leaf” (Gen 8:11, ESV).The raven is a false start, a failed attempt, an errant path rather than a keen narrative arc. The raven transcends nothing. It remains bound to the world, remains resolutely within catastrophe. It offers no comfort and so might as well be erased. Herald and harbinger, the radiant dove, on the other hand, enables the story’s progress toward the rainbow. Cue the swelling music. Meanwhile, somewhere in the world, the raven—this dark bird who loves utopias of its own making, realms indifferent to the divine—still wings its way.”

Silence

Chant Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name. Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.
(repeat)

Reading Emergence Magazine “The raven’s story is about waywardness, about being peripheral to the story and making the best of it, finding yourself unable or unwilling to submit to the commands of others, to participate in expected conclusions. The dove and the raven inhabit the same line of flight. Yet the dove reduces its possibilities to one, following the finite course, while the raven flies otherwise. They fly two trajectories: the dove’s forth and back, which enables movement toward completion of the narrative arc; and the raven’s veering into a space of no return—a disaster-spawned paradise that provides everything the creature needs, but nothing to trigger further travels (it will certainly not be winging home with chunks of scavenged flesh). We have nothing against doves, or against pigeons, for that matter. The dove has to work hard, to the point of exhaustion. But the dove has also benefited by becoming an integral actor within a biblical narrative, whereas the raven’s fate is never narrated. Write off the raven and we write off the capacity of stories to work out differently, the possibility that we might all learn something unexpected, unscripted. Or is it time to leave, to head out into the gaps and the complexities of our story, accepting that that’s the world we have always shared? Time, perhaps, to jump into the Flood? *Caw*. The raven recruits us to the unpredictable, the inevitable, the possibility of a shared world.

Silence

Chant O God hear our prayer, O God hear our prayer, when I call, answer me, O God hear our prayer, O God hear our prayer, come and listen to me. (repeat)

Reading Wink, Walter. *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces That Determine Human Existence* “ This high road to God has produced a kind of brittle and self-righteous sanctity whenever significant reserves of shadow simply remained repressed. It has become our destiny today that the way to God should lead us first down into the depths, to encounter God in the darkness there—not in order to return purified to face God, but as the physicist Alfred Romer put it, because the darkness is where God is.”

Silence

Reading: Wink, Walter. *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces That Determine Human Existence* “.....transformation comes not through the denial and repression of our evil, but by naming it, owning it, and lifting it up to God. In our own selves, this faithfully portrays the goal of all our striving: to face our own evil as courageously as we can; to love it into the light; to release the energy formerly devoted to restraining it; and to use that energy for the service of life. But there is also a residue of evil that can neither be cured nor integrated nor humanized. That we can only bring before God to be burned forever (for it never burns up altogether; it is in fact a kind of fuel), trusting God to transform even our irredeemable evil into fiery light.

Silence

Chant My God is my light, my light and salvation. In God I trust, in God I trust. (repeat)

Everyone Caw and call the blessings of the Black Raven, the Black Madonna into our hearts, our church, our nation and the world.

Virtual Wailing Wall Dear God, you who are the Black Madonna, the God called by many names, We pray to give you thanks for beauty of the dark, the mystery, the night. Please listen to us for we are in the dark and feel lost and afraid as a human family. We pray for the unredeemed parts of ourselves and beg you “God to transform even our irredeemable evil into fiery light.” Thank you God for not giving up on us. Hear us please as we call to you thank you for all who have loved us in the dark times. We give you thanks for loving us and for all who have loved us into being. We Pray for Israeli and Palestinian living and those who have passed We Pray for those in Ukraine and Russia living and those who have passed We Pray for all those refugees in the world We Pray for animals, plants and eco systems that have passed and gone extinct. We Pray for the conversion of the soul of the United States of America. May you the Angel of America hear our prayer and fill us with love for healing our world. AMEN

Muslim prayer I believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers..... and I believe in the resurrection after death. Amen

Jewish Prayer for those who have died O God, exalted and full of compassion, grant perfect peace in your sheltering, presence, among the holy and the pure, to the souls of our loved ones, who have departed from this world. Source of Mercy, bring them into Your presence. Let their souls be bound up in the bond of eternity. May their memory inspire us to live justly and kindly....May they rest in peace, and may they be bound up in the bond of eternal life. And let us say: Amen

Nancy Mahoney: Dear Holy One, We confess our sins, personally and collectively, those known to us and those unknown. Please help open our hearts to loving our enemies and to a conversion to your radical love. Amen

Dear Christ Sophia, We pray for our enemies. We pray for our country the United States to learn the truth, to experience a conversion as we wake up. May we make amends by making war no more. Please God give us courage to unmask, name and engage the powers and principalities of radical evil of our time. Amen

Martha: Prayer (Please unmute and say in unison) **Our Mother Father God** who is within us we celebrate your many names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us. Each day you give us all that we need. You remind us of our limits and we let go. You support us in our power and we act with courage. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us and the celebration among us now and forever. Amen by Miriam Therese Winters

Walt Rutherford: Dear Holy One, you the God of passionate love, we ask for your grace tonight despite our pride. Your forgiveness despite our doubt. Most of all, we ask for your love to see us through these dark times. May we face whatever is to come in your divine will with courage and open hearts of acceptance. Amen

Please respond God Help us. Hear our prayer.

God, Please guide Church for Our Common Home in its new ministry to help provide an interfaith prayer support and community building experiences that will lead to our going into the deep depths of our own selves to purge our own demons. Help us stop clinging to our petty neuroses. **God help us. Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the 2.3 million Palestine suffering genocide and their one million Palestinian children for those in the Ukraine and Russia and all war torn countries. **God help us. Hear our prayer.**

We have lost our moral soul as a nation. May we work to love our nation into healing. **God Help us. Hear our prayer.** Give us courage to break out of denial, inertia and silence and give us a voice to speak the truth to power. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We confess that we Americans have lived in denial, fear and have been sleep walking. We ask for forgiveness. We give you thanks God of mercy and love for creation and every breath we take and for our human family. Thank you for our instinct to care for children that humanizes us. May

we become a church that provides our country with the love it needs to wake up and sees our ceaseless wars as a suicidal path you God call us to change. Amen

Silent Prayer for all life here on our common home Mother Earth.

Invitation to Come to our Party of Sharing and Dancing!

Musical Benediction by Miriam Therese Winter May the blessing of God go before, may her grace and peace abound, may her spirit live within you may her love wrap you round, may her blessings remain with you always, may you walk on holy ground.

The Mary Magdalene Café and Dancing Hafiz, a Sufi master's four words of God, "Come Dance with Me."
<https://youtu.be/Man4Xw8Xypo?si=wIGo8rOcUUMqAcXN> *Blackbirds Beatles*
