



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 Caf !

Nov. 19, 2023
Help Us God, Thank you God!



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.

Chris Hedges Letter to the Children of Gaza https://open.substack.com/pub/chrishedges/p/letter-to-the-children-of-gaza-read?r=17370&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email part of letter, ".....I hope one day we will meet. You will be an adult. I will be an old man, although to you I am already very old. In my dream for you I will find you free and safe and happy. No one will be trying to kill you. You will fly in airplanes filled with people, not bombs. You will not be trapped in a concentration camp. You will see the world. You will grow up and have children. You will become old. You will remember this suffering, but you will know it means you must help others who suffer. This is my hope. My prayer. We have failed you. This is the awful guilt we carry. We tried. But we did not try hard enough. We will go to Rafah. Many of us. Reporters. We will stand outside the border with Gaza in protest. We will write and film. This is what we do. It is not much. But it is something. We will tell your story again. Maybe it will be enough to earn the right to ask for your forgiveness."

Molly Howell's workshop Thursday evenings on Zoom “Gone to Seed: An experimental community seminar” 11/30, 12/7,14,21 6-8 pm No class on Thanksgiving Day mollyhowell@proton.me

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

Report on our traditional Thanksgiving Party for Vivian Song

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 \(swarthmore.edu\)](https://www.swarthmore.edu/globalnonviolentaction) 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](https://www.wwoofusa.com/) 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.

Chris Hedges *Letter to the Children of Gaza* https://open.substack.com/pub/chrishedges/p/letter-to-the-children-of-gaza-read?r=17370&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

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 \(feedspot.com\)](https://www.feedspot.com/)

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

[Tell Pres. Biden: Demand the Israeli government ban the use of white phosphorus \(actionnetwork.org\)](https://www.actionnetwork.org/)

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

Meditation “If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.” Meister Eckhart

“Prayer binds us together. When I pray, I remember that I am not alone. The silos to which we often retreat—silos based on ideology, on history, on identity, on class, etc.—can often leave us feeling like we are alone and that the weight of the world is on my shoulders or yours.....In prayer, I remember that I am connected with

others. I remember that my hopes and longings for this world, and my fears and doubts about the future, are held together and lifted with yours. When we pray, whether alone on a walk or together in the church, I know others lift their hearts as I lift mine: a community staying connected in prayer and purpose.” Rev. R. Scott Painter

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.

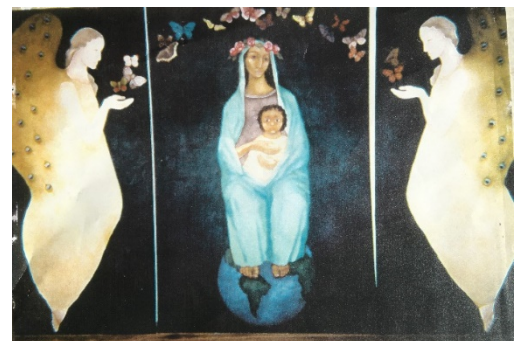
Musical Invocation for our 4.5-billion-years old Mother! Our *Dear, Dear Mother* by Raffi (Chorus)
Earth our 4.5-billion-years old Mother! Our dear, dear Mother, daily provider, earth be your name the time has come to honor you to know you and to show our love. You give us each day our daily grain kissed 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.

Reading by Rev. R. Scott Painter (edited) "Prayer grounds me for action. With prayer, I pause and breathe. I remember that I am right here. I recall the origins of all creation in God's goodness, generations of faithful people who have worked for the world's healing in times past, and the fact that I was born and called to live faithfully in this time. I am here. So are you. Whatever else I may be called to do will flow from this grounding in my own being, nested in God. Prayer connects me to hope. Hope fuels my persistence..... Prayer animates resilience. When the blows seem to keep coming, when we can hardly catch our breath or stand back up before another wave of disaster, praying – even with a simple word like "help" or a pained belly groan of despair – often summons within me the courage and strength to stand up again and take another step. Because if we stop getting up, we stop being. Period. Prayer acknowledges possibilities, potential and a power greater than myself.....Prayer binds us together. When I pray, I remember that I am not alone..... I remember that my hopes and longings for this world, and my fears and doubts about the future, are held together and lifted with yours. When we pray, whether alone on a walk or together in the church, I know others lift their hearts as I lift mine: a community staying connected in prayer and purpose."

Musical Response I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown good God show me the way. Oh.....lets go down, lets go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray.

Scripture Philippians 3:6-7 The Inclusive New Testament Priests for Equality "Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Chapter 13: 10 Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. 11 Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. 13 Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. 14 Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16 Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. 17 Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people.

Reflection *Help Us God, Thank you God*

The Virtual Wailing Wall

Musical Response *Sending You Light* by Melanie DeMore I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you I am sending you light, to hold you in love (repeat) No matter where you go, no matter where you've been, you'll never walk alone, I hold you deep within.

Please unmute and lift up all that you are grateful for this Thanksgiving.

Thanks A Lot by Raffi (adapted)

Thanks a lot. Thanks for the sun in the sky. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the whispering wind. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the moon lit night. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the wonder in me. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the clouds so high. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the birds in the spring. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the stars so bright. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the way we feel. Thanks for the animals, thanks for the land Thanks for the people everywhere. Thank you God, thanks for all we've got. Thank you God for all we've got.

Nancy Mahoney: Dear Holy One, We confess our sins, personally and collectively. We have been supporting the powers and principalities of American Empire, in thought word and deed knowingly and unknowingly. We come to humbly confess. Please help open our hearts that we may have a conversion to your ways of living in radical love. Help us wake up to all the ways we are in collusion with the destruction of our common home, the earth and give us strength to share the truth with one another. Amen

Dear Christ Sophia, We pray to learn to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors as Jesus taught us. We pray for our country the United States to learn the truth of its destructive wars. May we make amends by making war no more. Please God give us courage to unmask, name and engage the powers and principalities 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 when the bell rings, "God Help us. Hear our prayer."

Holy One, Please guide Church for Our Common Home in its new ministry to help provide an interfaith prayer and song vigil for peace. May we hold the vision of world peace in our hearts. Please bless our ministry of Earth Crisis Support Groups and Potluck Parties. May we have the courage to go into the depths of our own selves to purge our own demons. Help us stop clinging to our petty neuroses and may we make a habit of telling the truth in love. **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, Russia and all war torn countries. **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 one another. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We ask for forgiveness for the weapons our country has produced, sold and used against others. May we heal our country in love as we give thanks for the anti-slavery movement, civil rights movement, women's movement, Environmental Movement, Black Lives Matter

Movement and the Me To Movements. We give thanks for our socialized programs including public schools elementary through university, democracy, public libraries, state parks, and the genius and creativity of musical theater, jazz, baseball and our social security program for the elderly. **God help us. Hear our prayer** May we give thanks for all that has been brilliant in our American history. This Thanksgiving we call upon the highest angels of our nation and offer healing love. Bless the Feeling Peace Movement that shares the truth with one another about the bright and dark shadow of America . **God help us. Hear our prayer** We pray for the 150 species that are going extinct everyday. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** May we work together with people around the world and fast to change our suicidal path as a human family. May we work to end war. **God help us. Hear our Prayer.** And the people said together, **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." Stevie Wonder *For Once in My Life* <https://youtu.be/13qi3E40aWE?si=ZODbZrl-HGP26zj6>
