

Church for Our Common Home

*dedicated to Mother Earth,
the Divine Feminine,
Loving Community and the Arts
Third Sunday of Advent*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe the Black Madonna
of the Americas Calls us to
Build a New Kind of World and Church!*

*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!*

December 10, 2023

This worship service is dedicated to Bill Luce our friend. May you rest in peace. Bill. You are a gifted writer, storyteller, musician and loving man and we call upon your Spirit today to help us share the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe the Black Madonna of the America who stands in solidarity with all those who suffer. She is calling us to live lives of courage and radical love.



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 one more Thursday evening on Zoom "Gone to Seed: An experimental community seminar " 11/30, 12/7,14 6-8 pm mollyhowell@proton.me

Prayer vigil for the homeless in Corvallis Thursday Dec. 21, 5:30 pm

Special thanks to Edie for UU Faithify Grant to begin 2 new Earth Crisis Support Groups in Oregon need to raise \$2,000 in 30 days. Please share grant link <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/307/earth-crisis-support-groups>

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.

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.

Dec 17 Mary's Magnificat

Manger Christmas Eve with the Animals Sunday Dec. 24 4 pm

New Years Eve Dec. 31, 4 pm Dream Sharing, Incubation and Ritual with bonfire

The Global Nonviolent Action Database [Home | Global Nonviolent Action Database \(swarthmore.edu\)](http://www.swarthmore.edu/global-nonviolent-action-database) 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

WWOOF profile [Live and Learn on Organic Farms - WWOOF USA](http://www.wwoofusa.org) Volunteers from around the world come to work on organic farms and receive room and board.

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.

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 \(feedspot.com\)](http://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 \(house.gov\)](http://www.house.gov/rashidatlaib) (Thank you Nancy)



Honoring the Kalapuyan People We give thanks for the miracle of this sacred and beautiful land here in Dallas, Oregon where we ask for prayers for our common home, The Secret Prayer Garden at the John Cobb Eco Farm. This was the homeland of the Kalapuyan people before the colonizers came and inflicted genocide to the native peoples, land 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 America's. We commit to truth telling and working to make amends for the harm done.



Lighting of the first Advent Candle and the Black Madonna of the America's-- Our Lady of Guadalupe Candle

Meditation ".....because Catholic Mexican-origin women learn to think of Our Lady of Guadalupe as an ever-present and all-accepting heavenly mother, they also see her as nonjudgmental. This ultimately allows the participants to continue to identify as Catholic, to retain the aspects of Catholicism they find life-giving, and to transgress some traditional limiting notions of what a good Catholic woman should be." *Our Lady of Everyday Life*, chapter by María Del Socorro Castañeda-Liles "Perceptions of Our Lady of Guadalupe's Relationship to Feminism: "The Time Is Now"



Reading "12 Step program for an Ecologic Civilization" Church For Our Common Home is God centered and guided and dedicated to Mother Earth. The Secret Prayer Garden invites interfaith prayers and a new dream for the Earth at the John Cobb Eco Farm with twelve prayer stations, on trees over five acres. We work for an Ecologic Civilization with our 12 step program and we;



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 organizations
12. Experiment with nontraditional church in order to create relevant, spirit filled and loving community.

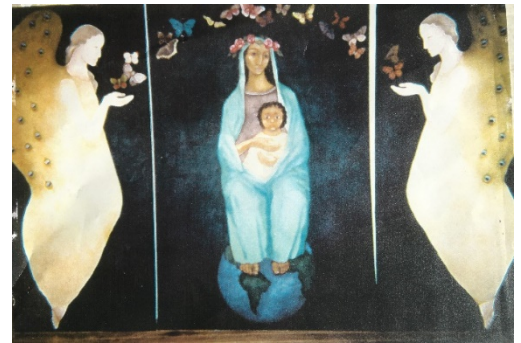
Musical Prayer and Invocation for Mother Earth our *4.5-billion-years 'old Mother!*

Our *Dear, Dear Mother* by Raffi Chorus 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. Chorus

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 to Worship (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)The Angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as white as snow, his eyes a flame. All hail said he, thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady, Gloria.All night all day angels watchin over me my Lord. 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 God and 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) 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. and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Reading "I took my other hand and placed it on top of hers, and she moved her free hand on top of it, so we had this black-and white stack of hands resting upon my chest.

"When you're unsure of yourself," she said, "when you start pulling back into doubt and small living, she's the one inside you saying, "Get up from there and live like the glorious girl you are.' She's the power inside you, you understand?"

Her hands stayed where they were but released their pressure.

"And whatever it is that keeps widening your heart, that's Mary, too, not only the power inside you but the love. And when you get down to it, Lily, that's the only purpose grand enough for a human life. Not just to love—but to persist in love." *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

Reading Catherine Keller in her book, *On the Mystery* quotes from *The Secret Life of Bees* "The people called her Our Lady of Chains. They called her that not because she wore chains....

They called her Our Lady of Chains because she broke them.”

(and then Catherine Keller continues in her own words,) ‘ This is no conventional, let alone Roman Catholic, devotion to the Virgin Mary. Our Lady of Chains signifies, as has often been the case in actual Marin devotion, something more than a merely human mother of a divine male. In the novel, she appears as a female symbol of the divine. The Black Madonna dis/closes for her community the ultimate face of Love.”

Scripture Ephesians 6:10–24 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible “Finally, draw your strength from Christ and from the strength of that mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the tactics of the Devil. 12 Our battle ultimately is not against human forces, but against the sovereignties and powers, the rulers of the world of darkness, and the evil spirits of the heavenly realms. 13 You must put on the armor of God if you are to resist on the evil day and, having done everything you can, to hold your ground. 14 Stand fast then, with truth as the belt around your waist, justice as your breastplate, 15 and zeal to spread the Good News of peace as your footgear. 16 In all circumstances, hold faith up before you as your shield; it will help you extinguish the fiery darts of the Evil One. 17 Put on the helmet of salvation, and carry the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Always pray in the Spirit, with all your prayers and petitions. Pray constantly and attentively for all God’s holy people. 19 Pray also for me, that God will open my mouth and put words on my lips, that I may boldly make known the mystery of the Good News—that mystery 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may have courage to proclaim it as I ought.”

Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Call to Rebuild the Church and a New World for Ecological Civilization retold by Rev. Bonnie Tarwater

In 1531, during the cold of winter, in what is now Mexico City, an Aztec Indian had a vision of the divine feminine. He had been robbed of every kind of dignity by his Spanish captors including his very name. His Indian name means, “One who Speaks like an Eagle.” The Spanish conquerors enslaved him and his people and did not allow them to speak their own language or worship their own religion. They gave him the name Juan Diego. He and his people had been conquered brutally in a genocide and taken into slavery. All the age old tactics of annihilation and oppression. The people suffered massive injustice, death and destruction. Forced to convert to Catholicism they were broken down and in despair. One Who Speaks Like an Eagle encountered a holy vision on his way to morning mass. He was in the same place where the Temple to Tonatsin the Goddess of the Earth and Corn, had been before it had been destroyed. Tonatsin is the land and fertility goddess and she was also called Snake Woman. She represented fertility and the miracle of sacred life. Everyone knew that the site of her temple had been a place of pilgrimage for the Indian people for generations. This was a holy place.

Suddenly, One Who Speaks Like and Eagle heard beautiful gentle music playing on Tepeyac Hill. He was drawn to climb up to the top, by the music.

Music

Suddenly, he heard the voice of a woman calling his name, One Who Speaks Like an Eagle. Curious at where the music was coming from or who could possibly be calling his name, he kept climbing the hill to investigate.

Music

On top of the hill, he saw a woman who was an Aztec Indian like himself with rays of the sun surrounding her. She stood on the crescent moon and introduced herself.

“My son, I have come to help you and your people. I am Our Lady of Guadalupe.” Her face was Indian yet she wore clothes like the Christian Mother Mary. He wondered why is this Indian woman wearing Mary’s costume? Here she was standing on the same hill top as the Temple to Tonatzin, but she was both Aztec and like the Christian divine feminine goddess. Both were women, both divine mothers who love all their people

in the human family as their own children. He could feel her love as she told him he had been chosen by her to help her build a new kind of church. Our Lady said,

“Go, You who Speaks like an Eagle to the Catholic Bishop of Mexico City and tell him he must build me a new kind of church. It will be called by my name in this same holy place of the Temple of the Goddess Tonatsin.”

“Who me? I am no one, Holy Mother. How could I speak to the Bishop and ask him to build you a church? He will never listen to someone like me. You must ask someone else.” She said, “I could have chosen anyone You who Speaks like an Eagle but I have chosen YOU! You are my beloved, my son, and I believe in you. You have strength you are not aware of and I will always be with you. You are never alone.” He was overcome with her love and message. She was an Indian like him and he knew he must listen to her. He agreed to her request and set out to meet the bishop. When he arrived at the Church of Santiago, he asked to see the Bishop. Everyone laughed at him. He waited and waited until finally they allowed him in but almost as a joke. He shared with the Bishop that he had a had a vision of the Mother Of God on the Holy Hill and she told him to come tell the Bishop to build her a church. Again, everyone laughed and then rudely told him to get out. He wanted to give up and began to doubt what he had seen and heard and felt. Perhaps he had just dreamt it. Perhaps what he experienced wasn't real at all. He went back to the holy hill where he had seen Our Lady just to check if she might still be there. As he climbed the Holy Hill he heard the same music.

Music

She was even more beautiful and radiant then he remembered. He fell on his knees and wept. “I am so sorry Our Lady but it is hopeless. They laughed at me and did not believe me. I cannot do what you have asked of me. I am so sorry.” “My dear son, there, there, it will be alright, I promise. Stand up. Hear my voice. You are the One who speaks like an Eagle, and I have chosen you. You must tell them you have seen me here on this holy hill where our Aztec Temple to Tonatzin, was before they destroyed it. Tell them that I am the Mother of God and I want a church be built here, for all my children. This is where I will love our people and all people in their struggles. Tell him that he must build my church right away.”

One who speaks Like and Eagle went again and he was more determined than before. Again, he shared what Our Lady had said. The Bishop said, “If you, Juan Diego, want me to believe you, go back to this woman and ask her for a sign. I want proof that her message is really from God.”

One Who Speaks Like and Eagle, ran swiftly like an eagle back to the Holy Hill. As he approaches he heard the same beautiful music

Music

He becomes overwhelmed with her beauty and love and kneeled and said “I have failed you again Our Lady. The Bishop said that I must bring him a sign. He wants a sign.”

“Go my son, over there where we first met and gather the roses you will find there. Collect them in your tilma and share my message. The bishop will believe you.” One Who Speaks Like an Eagle was amazed for there were indeed unimaginable beauty of roses growing in the desert during winter as she said. The beauty of her and the roses gave him strength he did not know he had. He gathered the roses in his shirt, called a tilma, which is made of cactus and journeyed again to the Bishop with his gift of roses.

He was allowed in when he said he brought the sign the Bishop requested. He opened his cloak and the gift of roses in winter fell to the ground. Everyone in the room was startled by what they saw, for on his cloak was imprinted the image of her face, an Indian women radiating with rays from the sun. The bishop immediately



understood the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and he began construction of a church in her name. For hundreds of years millions have worshiped Our Lady of Guadalupe, an Indian woman in Mother Mary's costume who came to a humble slave of the Spanish occupiers of the Americas on the same holy sacred hill where people had worshiped the feminine face of the divine for generations. Her cathedral is on the same spot of the Temple of Tonatsin. He Who Speaks Like an Eagle AKA Juan Diego first saw the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe and now we worship her around the world on December 12, her feast day. She is an indigenous woman brought back. She is a divine feminine face of God. Indigenous people the world over know how to live in harmony with nature and we must listen and learn by their wisdom and love of nature. She offers a relationship of love that inspires devotion. She is like a loving mother, for those who are in need of unconditional love, those who have not been listened to, those who are left out, and all those who are suffering the violation of unspeakable in justice and violence. She includes and listens to those who pray to her

and she communicates with us in any kind of language verbal or nonverbal in order for us to experience her healing love. She is a feminine face of God who promises unconditional healing love, in the midst of suffering. She has been moving from the Holy Hill in Mexico City thorough out the Americas and beyond. Her image and presence is now felt around the world. She is the Black Madonna of the Americas and people make pilgrimages to her in the same way people have made pilgrimages to holy places around our common home.. Pilgrims go to the River Ganges in India, Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. She is the face and wisdom of an indigenous woman so needed now. May people from around the world make a pilgrimage to her in our hearts, on Zoom and in every sacred inch of soil on earth, May Church for Our Common Home bring her spirit and wisdom intertwining the ancient wisdom traditions with the and new story of an ecologic civilization. May her image and art work guide us in making for the harm Empire and colonial powers have inflicted on people, soil and eco systems. May her story and motherly her love heal Mothers and childnre of all species during our planetary crisis, a time of great suffering and turning. We pray to you Our Lady. Dear Holy Mama, you who are Our Lady, Help us. We are afraid and in need of your healing courage and grace. Awaken and inspire us, guide and teach us your ways of love and mercy. Guide us as we rebuild a place to love and care for Our Common Home and all your creatures. May you show us here at Church for Our Common Home a way where there seems to be no way. Amen

The Virtual Wailing Wall

Nancy Mahoney: Dear Holy One, We confess our sins, personally and collectively. We ask you God to help us break the chains that bind us so we can love and even resist in love. 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 and walk forth int hese dark times Amen

Dear Christ Sophia, We pray to learn to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors as Jesus taught us. May we make amends by living in truth and love. Please God give us courage to do your will. 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 after the bell rings, “God Help us. Hear our prayer.”

Holy One, Please guide Church for Our Common Home that we may become a community of love for all creatures. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** This Advent we promise to listen to your call. May we have the courage to like Juan Diego do your will. Help us stop clinging to our petty small selves and may we Walk Forth into the dark this Advent knowing Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Black Madonna of the American is always with us in Courage and Love. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for Palestinians Israelis, Ukrainians, Russians, Afghans, those from the Congo, Libia, Syria, Yemen, all indigenous people every where all people suffering from the oppression and violence of Empire, violence, genocide. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for the childrne of Gaza and all children in war torn places. **God help us. Hear our prayer** We ask for forgiveness for all the ways we have not loved and served you. **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 be open to visions and dreams of you this advent. **Amen**

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

Musical Benediction by Miriam Therese Winter
May the blessing of God go before, may her grace and peace abound, may her sprit live within you may her love wrap you round, may her blessings remain with you always, may you walk on holy ground.
(*Annunciation* artist Edward Frampton)



Sharing and the **Mary Magdalene Café and Dancing** Hafiz four words of God “Come Dance with Me

<https://youtu.be/0UVUW11FENs?si=ErktnaEuY9y8hCU3> Feliz Navidad Jose Feliciano feat. FaWiJo - Feliz Navidad (Official Video 2016)

We want to send you rainbow ribbons for dancing so please let us know if you have not received them yet.

P.S. Thank you for sending us donations regularly and we ask for any small or large, regular or irregular donations and pledges in order to continue the ministry of this church. The need is great and thank you.
