



Church for Our Common Home

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

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 17, 2023

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, 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.

Thanks to Molly Howell's for her workshop "Gone to Seed."

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.

Manger Christmas Eve with the Animals (weather depending) Sunday Dec. 24 4 pm

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

Sunday Feb 4 1-5 pm We will host the Ecumenical Ministry of Oregon Earth Summit again this year.

The Global Nonviolent Action Database [Home | Global Nonviolent Action Database \(swarthmore.edu\)](#) 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

WWOOF profile [Live and Learn on Organic Farms - WWOOF USA](#) 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 \(feedspot.com\)](#)

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

Very Special thanks to Ralph, Beth and Molly for giving us the gift of music today!



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 Black Madonna of the America's-- Our Lady of Guadalupe Candle

Meditation Musical Offering *Winters Dream* by R. Penunuri Ralph and Beth Penunuri

Chorus Winter's Dream sends a prayer. Close your eyes I'll meet you there. Make a wish if you dare. Winters Dream is in the air.



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.



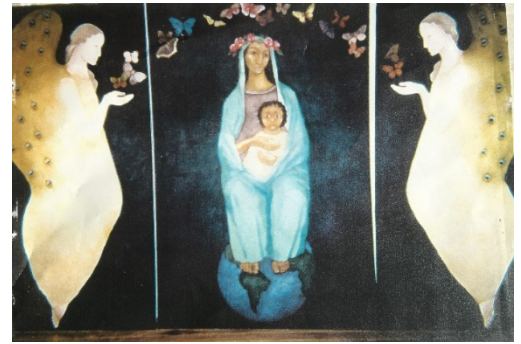
Musical Prayer and Invocation for Mother Earth our *4.5-billion-years`old Mother!*

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Musical Offering

Canticle of the Turning Arranged by Rory Cooney by Molly Howell

Scripture Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

The Gospel of Luke Chapter 1: 41 As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? 44 The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!” 46 Mary said:

“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, 47 and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. 48 For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. 49 For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. 50 Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. 51 You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; 52 you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. 53 You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. 54 You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy— 55 the promise you made to our ancestors— to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.” 56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Reflection

Mary’s Vision of the Great Power Reversal

Congregational Hymn *Mary’s Song* by Mirian Theresa Winters

1. My soul gives glory to my God, My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness In many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed, And blessings they shall claim.

3. From age to age to all who fear, Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near, Dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; The rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises With present faithfulness.

The Virtual Wailing Wall Nancy Mahoney: Dear Holy One, We come in prayer to confess our complicity to the Powers of Injustice and all the ways we benefit. We confess our sins, personally and collectively. We ask you God to learn to rejoice and love as we join in the Great Power Reversal of Jesus. We come to humbly confess. Please help open our hearts that we may have a conversion to your ways of living in radical justice and love. Help us wake up and walk forth in love during these dark times. Amen

Dear Christ Sophia, We pray to learn to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors as Jesus taught us. We come to you God to 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 (from movie *Don't Look Up*)

Please respond after the bell rings, “God Help us. Hear our prayer.”

Holy One, you who we call by many names, we magnify and declare all your Holy Names as Blessed. Please guide Church for Our Common Home that we may be a community of justice and love for all creatures. We don't want you to clean us up God, rather catapult us out of our complicity with the powers and principalities of injustice and meaninglessness. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** This Advent help us become like Mary, courageous and bold, a prophetess of empowered strength and vision. We long to live the Great Power Reversal that is the Good News of the Gospel. Lift us up that we may serve the lowly, marginalized, left out and cast out both human and non human animals. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for people and creatures in war torn areas of our common home, Palestinians Israelis, Ukrainians, Russians, Afghans, those from the Congo, Libya, Syria, Yemen, all people suffering from the oppression and violence of Empire, greed, violence, genocide. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for the children of Gaza and all children. War is near when we do not treat all children as our own. **God help us. Hear our prayer** We ask for forgiveness 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 visitations from angels and dreams of your call 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 spirit 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



Christmas Music for Dancing by Ralph and Beth

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.
