



## 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!*



### December 24, 2023

*This worship service is dedicated to Dr. John B. Cobb Jr. who had a fall a week ago and is doing well and to Martha Garcia who has had both loss from two loved ones who have died in her family as well as a fall that broke her shoulder. We pray for healing love for everyone in our church this Christmas and every creature in our common home, Mother Earth.*

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](mailto:revtarwater@yahoo.com). [www.churchforourcommonhome.com](http://www.churchforourcommonhome.com)

**Director Our Common Home Counseling Center Dr. Walter Rutherford** (858) 442-6472 [walterrutherford44@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Report on 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 \$2,500 in 30 days. Please share grant link <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/307/earth-crisis-support-groups>. We have raised \$900.00 need \$1600 more in two weeks.

**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.

**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)

**New Musical WWOOF** to invite local musians to come do farm work, paly music for worship and offer music workshops she will conduct. Brillinat new idea from Molly this week!



**Honoring the Kalapuyan People** We gives 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** "Do we think that peace on earth comes from Caesar or Christ? Do we think it comes through violent victory or nonviolent justice? Advent, like Lent, is about a choice of how to live personally and individually, nationally and internationally." — Marcus J. Borg, *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Say About Jesus's Birth*



**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



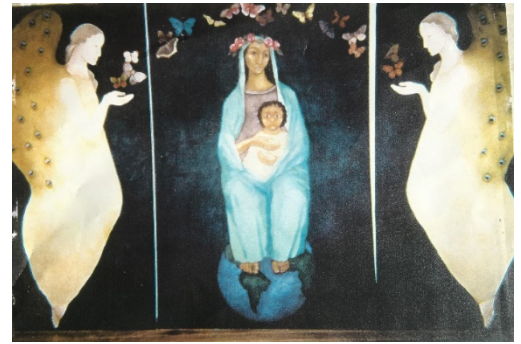
### **Musical Prayer and Invocation for Mother Earth our *4.5-billion-years`old Mother!***

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**

#### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly swinging o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains

(chorus) Gloria In Excelsis Deo Gloria In Excelsis Deo (repeat)

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? (chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King (chorus)

#### *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, to all good will From heav'n's the news we  
bring. The worlds in solemn stillness lay to hear the angles sing.

**Scripture Luke 2:1-7** **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

#### *Away in the Manger*

Away in a manger No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky Looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing The Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes I love You,  
Lord Jesus Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask You to stay  
Close by me forever And love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children In Your tender care  
And fit us for heaven To live with You there

### *Jesus Our Brother*

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude;  
And the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother up-hill and down,  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."  
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for a bed,  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."  
"I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with the curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for a blanket warm,  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."  
"I," said the sheep with the curly horn.



"I," said the dove from the rafters high,  
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry,  
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I."  
"I," said the dove from the rafters high.

"I" said the "cat who lives in the barn,  
"I catch the mice on the John Cobb Farm.  
I'm soft and small and sit in your lap.  
I" said the cat," it's time for a nap."

"I said the dog who wags his tail,  
"I love you as big as a giant whale.  
I'll be your friend for evermore.  
I" said the

dog, " am guarding the door.""

"I said the bunny whose name was Steve.  
I hopped 'round the manger that first Christmas Eve;  
I made the child smile—what a joy to perceive.  
I said the bunny." whose name was Steve.  
(Bunny lyrics by Rev. Ned Wight)

Thus, all the beasts by some good spell;  
in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave  
Emanuel. The gifts they gave Emanuel

**Scripture Luke 2:8-19** <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of

great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

### *Oh little Town of Bethlehem*

Oh little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the  
silent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shineth,  
the everlasting light The hopes and fears of all  
the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their  
watch of wondering love Oh morning stars together,  
proclaim thy holy birth. And praises and  
sing for God our King and peace to all on

### What Child Is This?

What child is this Who lay to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping.

(chorus) This, this is Christ the King Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud The Babe, the Son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh Come peasant king to own him  
The King of Kings salvation brings Let loving hearts enthrone him (chorus)



### **Reflection** *Christmas a Radical Revolutionary Parable*

#### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

(chorus) Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth. (chorus)

Down in the lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (chorus)

### **Virtual Wailing Wall and Prayers of Confession**

**Nancy: Dear Holy One,** We come to confess and to ask for forgiveness. We know that we have done things we should not have done and not done things we should have done. We ask you to forgive us. We ask that you guide us in learning how to forgive others as well as ourselves. (silence) Amen

**Dear God,** We pray for our enemies as Jesus taught us. May your will be done for all those we name. (please name prayer requests all together simultaneously) 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.”** We pray for people and creatures in war torn areas of our common home, Palestinians Israelis, Ukrainians, Russians, Afghanis, those from the Congo, Libia, 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 in the coming year. Thank you for you have given us light in the cold winter darkness, you have given us the gift of the vision of peace amidst war, hope because there is new miraculous life within us and amongst us. We promise you that we will never give up. WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE! Please unmute and lift up those you want to pray for..... **God help us. Hear our. 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



Kirk Franklin *A Gospel Christmas* <https://youtu.be/s0PytXQ8ewE?si=4TAQggY-qAMkyyi2>

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.

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