

Cosmic Symphony of Love Unfolding

a retreat in the Living Cosmology

June 26 – July 1, 2017

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Hiawatha, IA

www.prairiewoods.org

Guided by Maureen Wild, SC *with the musical support of Joyce Rouse*

Imagine an unfinished symphony that is cosmic in its outermost and innermost melody. Imagine harmonies emerging within this grand cosmic melody and manifesting as molten and mountainous earth songs, the music of rain, water ebbing and flowing, nature's wind instruments, the miracle of breath, and the ever-transforming dance of sunlight and fire. And from within this elemental Earth ensemble, imagine the myriad voices of life singing out in all their magnificence, and further evolving this great cosmic symphony.

Imagine the *leitmotif*¹ within this great evolving symphony - *as Love*. This musical theme of love vibrates cosmically and symphonically in countless ways, energetically evolving through space and deep time, creatively finding its way through resistance and discord towards greater and greater depth and beauty and harmony in expression. It is '*the within*' of the universe, the Evolving Song of Love, the Divine Milieu in which we live and move and have our being.

It finds richness of expression in the heart of Christ, now *Cosmic Christ-heart that allures*. We experience a 2000-year allurements to the Christ love song, and in a particular way as its evolution continued in the hearts of our spiritual founders and Saints and ancestors and us. We walk in this long legacy of love unfolding, love evolving within and among us through deep time - *Cosmogogenesis ... Christogenesis ... the genesis of love*.

This retreat opens the doorway to our revelatory cosmic scriptures so that we may better know the deep time story of love's emergence and unfolding. It invites resting in cosmic love and relaxing within one's contemplative, mystic self.

Conferences integrate the legacy and identity we share as cosmological beings, Earth beings, Christ-centered beings, and beings within the universal heart of love that is continually carried forward. Conferences will also integrate parallel themes from Pope Francis on integral ecology, the urgency for protection and compassion highlighted within *Laudato Si' - Care of our Common Home*.

This retreat had its debut for the Federation of the Sisters of Charity which welcomed almost seventy Sisters and Daughters of Charity and their Associates to Emmitsburg, MD, in 2015. It is now being adapted by Maureen and Joyce to reach wider audiences.

For more information: contact Laura Weber at 319-395-6700, ext. 207 lweber@prairiewoods.org

¹ German: *lit'mō-tēf'* - *dominant and recurring theme; musically: a unifying principle throughout*

Maureen Wild is originally from the Peace River country of northern Alberta. A Sister of Charity (Halifax) since 1983, she served as parish assistant and teacher for several years in the inner cities of Edmonton, AB, and Roxbury, MA.

In 1987 Maureen did an internship with scientist Sister Rosalie Bertell, GNSH, which focused on the health effects of radioactive poisoning; while also studying at St. Michael's College where she was introduced to the writings of Father Thomas Berry, CP, through a study of *Ecological Ethics*. Thomas' synthesis and wisdom has had ongoing and profound impact on Maureen's way of seeing the world. In 1990 she made her final vows within a new context; she vowed to live as an integral and responsible member within the community of all creation. She strives to practice this in her lifestyle and prayer, in her ministry and in her way of being in the world.



Maureen Wild, SC, MED

Maureen's graduate studies ('93 Boston) and primary ministry focus for over two decades has been on themes of our *Living Cosmology and Sacred Ecology*. She served as Director of two spiritual-based ecological learning centres - Genesis Farm, NJ and Centre for Earth and Spirit, BC (which she founded). As a sought-after speaker and retreat guide, Maureen continually develops educational and retreat initiatives. (www.paxgaia.ca) Also, she is writing the memoirs of a Cree-Chipewyan woman elder who lives in the midst of the Athabasca Tar Sands industry of northern Alberta.



Joyce Rouse, MA

Joyce Rouse grew up on a farm near Cresco, Iowa where the music of the Earth touched her at an early age. The 'leitmotif' of Joyce's music ministry is '*Helping Heal the Planet One Song at a Time.*' Joyce has deep affinity to Sisters; in the last two decades she has worked with many congregations of religious as they explore their deep concern for Earth along with new understandings of our cosmological context. She invariably brings her wonderful spirit and prophetic gift of song. (www.earthmama.org)

With a Masters of Arts in Earth Literacy (2002 from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, IN) and extensive music and theatrical training, Joyce spreads the concepts of Earth connection and sustainability. She also has a passion for teaching the principles of the Earth Charter in creative, lively and musical ways!

Over the years Joyce has developed her music ministry and programs within schools and for religious institutions. On a practical lifestyle note, Joyce and her husband are committed to seeking out renewable energy solutions in order to live lightly on Earth; they produce about 60% of their power with wind and solar, grow much of their own food and source locally grown food. Joyce and Maureen have known each other as members of the Sisters of Earth network that began in 1994.