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A Celebration of the Tree of Life in the Time of the Great Turning, an evening of art, music, and story, will be held Saturday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. The event features an address by author and environmental activist Joanna Macy, storytelling by Michael Meade, and liturgical dance by Betsey Beckman.

The evening is designed to bring together people of different spiritual and cultural traditions to express their sorrow and hope over the environmental and cultural upheaval our world is currently experiencing.

"We are living in unprecedented spiritual times," says event co-chair Randy Morris, a professor at Antioch University. Climate change, the accelerating rate of extinction of species, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico--all have brought an awareness that preserving life on earth will require a worldwide change of heart.

Joanna Macy coined the term "the Time of the Great Turning," to describe this time of transition. We are moving, she writes, from an unsustainable empire-based economic model to an earth-based, community model.

"We awaken to what we once knew: we are alive in a living Earth, source of all we are and can achieve," she writes. "Despite our conditioning by the industrial society of the last two centuries, we want to name, once again, this world as holy" (*Coming Back to Life*).

The Tree of Life also speaks to this time. An ancient symbol found in many cultures, today scientists use it as a model for evolution, illustrating the common origin of all life on earth. It's an image of diversity and unity, a reminder of the interconnectedness of all life.

"We can recycle, we can take shorter showers," says Molly Brown, a local artist and co-chair of the event. "But without a unified shift in consciousness, we humans will find ourselves clinging helplessly to our own branch of the tree as it cracks and falls."

Event organizers say art can open people's hearts to that change in a way that rational thought can't. The evening will feature the talents of Michael Meade, noted poet and storyteller, singer Gina Salá and the Amazing Grace choir, dancer Betsey Beckman, and many others artists representing a variety of spiritual traditions.

The evening is co-sponsored by The Tree of Life Project, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. Mark's Cathedral, and Rite of Passage Journeys.

Tickets are \$20/person and are available through Brown Paper Tickets.

For more information, see www.treeoflife-great-turning.org