



Message from Reclaiming Earth Committee

Advent: a time of waiting and of hope. As we read, pray and reflect on Romans 8:12-25, the verses that capture our attention are “. . . in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now and not only creation, but we ourselves . . . groan inwardly . . . For in hope we are saved.”

Taken from the Green Bible NRSV

“I know that it is no longer words, doctrines, and mental belief systems that can or will reveal the fullness of this Cosmic Christ. This Earth indeed is the very Body of Christ, and it is from this body that we are born, live, suffer, and resurrect into eternal life. Either all is God’s great project, or we may rightly wonder whether anything is . . . It seems that St. Paul is saying here (Romans 8:22-23) that we human ones might be the last ones to jump aboard God’s great plan and direction. There is the groaning of growing in all of creation, and the groaning of resisting and “waiting” in all that is human and animal, and in everything that is forever being born into new forms, forever growing and dying. Non-human creation has been obedient to its destiny it seems”.

Richard Rohr, *Creation as the Body of God*, from *Spiritual Ecology* (Pg 240)

The phrase, “a time of waiting and hoping,” can have many different meanings to each of us. What does it mean for you?