# Towards Pentecost 2022

Listening and Responding to the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth.



**Supported by:** 

**Thursday 28th April** 

**Faith and Politics** 

With a particular focus on Jesus and nonviolence.

**Companion** ~ **John Dear** 



**Thursday 5th May** 

The Cry of the Poor

With a particular focus on Poverty in Scotland.

Companion ~ Lawrie Morgan Klein



**Thursday 12th May** 

Is a Circular Economy a Way Forward?

**Companion ~ Kim Pratt** 



Thursday 19th May

A Wellbeing Recovery from COVID

Companion ~ Philippa Whitford



Thursday 26th May

Owning our Christian History

With a particular focus on the Doctrine of Discovery.

**Companion ~ Sarah Augustine** 



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

The Eucharist as an Act of Political Subversion

Companion ~ Tom O'Loughlin



**Click for Registration Form** 

All sessions begin at 7.00pm [UK Time]

# **Our Companions on the Journey**

#### Rev. John Dear

John is an internationally recognized voice and leader for peace and nonviolence. A priest, activist and author, he served for years as the director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the largest interfaith peace organization in the U.S. After September 11, 2001, he was a Red Cross coordinator of chaplains at the Family Assistance Centre in New York, and counselled thousands of relatives and rescue workers. John has travelled the war zones of the world, been arrested some 80 times for

peace, led Nobel Peace prize winners to Iraq, given thousands of lectures on peace across the U.S., and served as a pastor of several churches in New Mexico. He arranged on many occasions for Mother Teresa to speak to various governors to stop an impending execution, and helped draft Pope Francis' Jan. 1, 2017 World Day of Peace message on nonviolence. He is a co-founder of Campaign Nonviolence and the Nonviolent Cities Project and founder and director of "The Beatitudes Centre for the Nonviolent Jesus," <a href="https://www.beatitudescenter.org">www.beatitudescenter.org</a> He is on the national committee of the Selma Jubilee annual march, and the literary executor of Daniel Berrigan.

His thirty five books include: The Beatitudes of Peace; They Will Inherit the Earth; The Nonviolent Life; Radical Prayers; Walking the Way; Thomas Merton Peacemaker; A Persistent Peace; Transfiguration; You Will Be My Witnesses; Living Peace; The Questions of Jesus; The God of Peace; Jesus the Rebel; Peace Behind Bars; Lazarus Come Forth!, Disarming the Heart and most recently, Praise Be Peace: The Psalms of Peace and Nonviolence in a time of War and Climate Change. He has been nominated many times for the Nobel Peace Prize, including by Archbishop Desmond Tutu www.johndear.org

# Lawrie Morgan Klein

Lawrie joined StepChange Debt Charity Scotland in October 2017. He is responsible for StepChange's Public Affairs work in Scotland, monitoring and influencing policy and political developments in the Scottish Government and its likely impact on clients. He worked in Holyrood and Westminster as a campaign organiser for a political party prior to joining StepChange.

StepChange Debt Charity Scotland helps people overcome problem debt. We are a provider of specialist telephone and online debt advice. Our dedicated team of debt advisors based in Glasgow support our clients with a wide range of solutions that are effective, tailored to the client and that most importantly are free. We work with a wide range of partner organisations and we are always looking to reach new clients. StepChange campaigns on issues which affect our clients, sharing their stories to raise awareness of the impact of problem debt across society.

**StepChange Debt Charity Scotland** 

#### **Kim Pratt**

Kim is the Circular Economy Campaigner for Friends of the Earth Scotland. Her work focuses on reducing material consumption and waste through policy change. She is a guest lecturer at Edinburgh and Strathclyde Universities on Life Cycle Analysis, a technique used to measure and compare environmental impacts of products and systems.

Friends of the Earth Scotland is Scotland's leading environmental campaigning organisation. We are an independent Scottish charity with a network of thousands of supporters and active local groups across Scotland and part of the largest grassroots environmental network in the world, uniting over 2 million supporters, 73 national member groups, and 5,000 local activist groups. <a href="www.foe.scot">www.foe.scot</a>

Friends of the Earth Scotland is asking households to take part in the Big Plastic Count this summer. For one week people across the UK will be counting their plastic recycling and waste so that to put pressure on the Government and retailers to fix the issue of plastic waste. Find out more here: https://thebigplasticcount.com

# Dr Philippa Whitford MP

Originally from Belfast, Philippa moved to Scotland at the age of 10 and went on to study Medicine at Glasgow University. Prior to her election to Parliament, Philippa was a Consultant Breast Cancer Surgeon in Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock for 19 years. She was involved in the first SIGN guidelines for breast cancer and chaired the breast cancer project groups of the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland and, later, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland through which she designed the accreditation

standards for the audit of Breast Cancer services and helped develop regional cancer networks to establish Peer review and encourage the sharing of good practice.

In the early 1990s, Philippa spent 18 months as a medical volunteer at a UN sponsored hospital in Gaza. She is a passionate supporter of Palestinian rights and returned to Palestine in 2016 and 2017 to support the development of improved breast cancer care and services.

In 2015, she stood as an SNP candidate in the General Election and won her constituency of Central Ayrshire; turning a Labour majority of 12,500 into an SNP majority of 13,500. She was re-elected in June 2017 and again in December 2019.

Philippa was Shadow Health Spokesperson for the SNP at Westminster from May 2015 until December 2021 and, in her first Parliamentary term, sat on the Health Select Committee. She now has the role of Europe Spokesperson and was a member of the Parliamentary Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union, looking at the UK's preparations for the end of the Brexit transition period and beyond until it was disbanded. She now sits on the on the UK Trade and Business Commission and is a member of the newly established EU/UK Parliamentary Assembly.

# **Sarah Augustine**

Sarah, who is a Pueblo (Tewa) descendant, is founder and cochair of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition and Executive Director of a dispute resolution center in central Washington State. She is also the cofounder of Suriname Indigenous Health Fund (SIHF), where she has advocated for vulnerable Indigenous Peoples since 2004. She has represented the interests of Indigenous community partners to their own governments, the Inter-

American development bank, the United Nations, the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the World Health Organization, and a host of other international actors including corporate interests. She is a columnist for Anabaptist World, and co-hosts the Doctrine of Discovery podcast with Sheri Hostetler. In Washington State, where she lives, she serves in a leadership role on multiple boards and commissions to enable vulnerable peoples to speak for themselves in advocating for structural change. She and her husband, Dan Peplow, and their son live in the Yakima Valley of Washington. She is author of the book *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* (Herald Press 2021).

# Tom O'Loughlin

Tom is Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham in England.

His research focusses on how Christians imagine themselves in the way they gather and celebrate together: what they do, and do not do, when they celebrate the Eucharist can be a better indicator of what is important to them than their formal statements of their beliefs.

He is the author of numerous works, including the *Didache: a window on the earliest Christians, The Eucharist: Origins and* 

Contemporary Understandings and Eating Together, Becoming One.

### **Pope Francis launches the Laudato Si Action Platform**

With the Encyclical <u>Laudato si'</u>, promulgated in 2015, I invited all people of good will to take care of the Earth, which is our common home. For a long time now, this house that hosts us suffers as a result of wounds that we cause by our predatory attitude, which makes us feel that we are masters of the planet and its resources, and authorizes us to make irresponsible use of the goods God has given us. Today, these wounds manifest themselves dramatically in an unprecedented ecological crisis, which involves the ground, air, water and, in general, the ecosystem

in which human beings live. The current pandemic has now brought to light in an even stronger way the cry of nature and that of the poor who suffer the consequences the most, highlighting that everything is interconnected and interdependent and that our health is not separate from the health of the environment in which we live.