

complete liner notes

LovingKindness *Earth Mama*

A Journey of Deepening

These songs are all part of the deepening of my own spiritual journey. The origins of their words spring from the ancient wisdom of many traditions. Those traditions all spring from the ever-unfolding Universe visible in the night sky!

When we choose to look, we find wisdom and awareness beyond comprehension that *we are in the Universe and the Universe is in us!*

May these songs take you to a deeper connection of beauty, awe, and LovingKindness.

Joyce "Earth Mama"

All lyrics at www.earthmama.org/lyrics

Special thanks to the stellar team of musicians and artists who contributed to this work.

See their names below and know this project benefitted immensely from the contribution of each specialist listed. It is an honor to work with you.

And to my global circle of friends, inspiring my work and my life. You know who you are. I love you.

The Players

Rob Matson, classical guitar

Catherine Marx, keys, hammer dulcimer, horns

Paul Scholten, percussion

Kyle Scholten, acoustic bass

Richard Rouse, harmonica

Background vocals: Lisa Silver, Kim Parent, JJ Rouse

Engineers, Kerry Marx, Rob Matson

Mastered by Rob Matson, County Q Recording, Nashville, TN

Pre-production recording, Angel Pontier, Eastside Sound, Nashville, TN

Photo/art planning and design: Bepe Kafka, Cathy Learoyd, Kate Irwin

Angel sponsors: Jan Stocking, Diza Velasco, Shirley Gordon, Sisters of Earth,

Gaia Dance UK, The Rouseketeers

LovingKindness titles and track information

1. All In All 2:45 *inspired by Thomas Merton writings*
2. LovingKindness 3:04 *interpretation of ancient Buddhist prayer*
3. Labyrinth 4:09
4. What a Friend We have in Jesus 4:37 Joseph M. Scriven (1855) public domain
5. The Great Vision 3:50 eco-lyrics by Ann Palmer, Gaia Dance, UK, traditional tune
6. One Stone 0:40
7. Breathing Beauty 3:17 *inspired by Wisdom Tradition prayers*
8. Children of the World 2:21 eco-lyrics by Ann Palmer, Gaia Dance, UK, traditional tune
9. Welcome Angels 3:14
10. Blissed 2:46 *In Memory of Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel (1961-2016)*
11. What is Mine To Do? 3:27

All songs written by Joyce J Rouse except as noted

©Rouse House Music, 2015-2020 (ASCAP)

Produced by Joyce Rouse for Rouse House, LLC

©© 2021 Rouse House LLC Earth Mama® Productions

All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws.

Licensing, quantity discounts and sheet music available at EarthMama.org

Rouse House Records RH-14-0621 Full recording credits and all lyrics at
www.earthmama.org

Photo Credit:

Orion Mosaic NASA/ESA//J.Schmidt

Beach Heart Labyrinth, Scottie Prichard

Portrait and Impatience on Step, J. Rouse

LovingKindness, the songs and notes

1. All In All

The first lines of this are words of iconic theologian, Thomas Merton. It became a springboard for other words, additional lines and music for a gentle singable chant. Already used in some chanting circles.

2. LovingKindness

Inspired by the ancient Buddhist prayer for Lovingkindness, of which there are many variations. I adapted author Joyce Rupp's version, which I reworded some and adapted to fit a musical form. This is modern folk acoustic piano interpretation of the prayer for Lovingkindness. This kind of compassion is deeply needed in the post-pandemic world of stress and polemic views. I added a new verse for Earth, which deserves and needs our compassion.

Distinctive chimes near closing of song are a traditional call to prayer or invitations for listener to hum or sing along.

3. Labyrinth

Through the years of my music ministry part of Earth Mama, I've had the joy of visiting and walking many different labyrinths in North America. The labyrinth, an ancient art form for contemplation is another choice for contemplation and meditation. The photo of the beach labyrinth was taken by Scottie Pritchard, who locally has her's listed on the World Labyrinth site (<https://labyrinthlocator.com/>) and has had visitors from all over the world stop and walk here. When she visits the beach she creates temporary versions in the sand, often with a heart at the middle. She graciously gave permission to use the beach heart labyrinth photo!

4. What a Friend We have in Jesus

Though my father was not an especially religious man, this was his favorite hymn which I learned at an early age. When I am distressed or weary I find myself humming it and reciting the words from my heart and I am soothed, To record this in a bluesy style felt so right. Because we are also soothed by Blues music. I loved performing this live and inviting listeners to sing along and absorb the love.

Recently this track played on a regional gospel radio program, God's Child Radio. It got a wonderful personal introduction from host John Rees, who I knew from our Nashville years. He now has a studio in North Carolina and an active music ministry. Great to reconnect with him.

5. **The Great Vision**—from the ancient tune of Be Thou My Vision with new visionary lyrics by Scottish author and poet Ann Palmer, this is one of a series from her Eco-Hymns collection popular in the UK

6. **One Stone**

This song is sort of a musical “palate cleanser” between courses! It is a reminder that instead of walls, we would be wise to build bridges, and each stone, or kindness, we add to the bridge brings us closer to fixing a rough patch or relationship.

7. **Breathing Beauty**

Sometimes when I’m stressed or worried I have to remind myself to breath with intension. This became a kind of chant to get me through those times. I sang and played it often during the pandemic and also during some of the recent climate disasters. It became a way to balance the Covid Sorrows and the Covid Blessings.

8. **Children of the World**

Another wonderful Eco Hymn or Eco Carol from Ann Palmer to the familiar tune of Good King Wenceslas. I love the wisdom and characters from Tolkien she included in the verses.

9. **Welcome Angels**

This is a lullaby and morning song that came from a deep spiritual experience. Very singable for all ages. I hope people will sing along and begin and end their day with its message of comfort and beauty.

10. **Blissed**

My friend, the late beloved artist and yoga teacher Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel shared her experience of a conversation with a stranger on the street, when she ask “How are you?” and could not tell if he was saying “I’m Blessed!” or “I’m Blissed!” . She told the story with such joy that I still feel it when I sing or hear this song! Though she never heard the finished song, her love of humankind and Earth lives on in its words and music.

11. **What is Mine To Do?**

Many people share the dilemma of being overwhelmed with all the needs of family, community and our whole society. I often return to these ancient words of counsel in discerning where I am being led to apply my limited time and energy.

**Yip Harburg, the composer of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, said,
“Words make you think thoughts. Music makes you feel a feeling. But
a song makes you feel a thought.”**

Early Reviews and Comments—

LovingKindness—our planet and people are so in need of this compassionate energy. Joyce Rouse’s meaningful messages and comforting melodies encourage our hearts. Her songs remind us to believe in love and to keep hope alive.

—Joyce Rupp, author, *Boundless Compassion*

Congratulations on *LovingKindness*! You've made something truly beautiful. I am listening now and my favorite tracks so far are *All in All*, *The Great Vision* and *Labyrinth*. Wishing you all the best with your elegant creation. We need more people and artists like you in the world!

—Kabir Sehgal, New York Times best selling author, New York, NY

Oh my, what a soul gift. I love it all. *God is All in All*, *Labyrinth*, *Breathing Beauty*, *What is Mine to Do*,...It is all such a blessing.

LovingKindness —This is like a deep breath of prayer. I feel the energy of the blessing beyond the structure of the words. This is a living word prayer; it seems to come alive in the mouth and ear, emanating beyond and beyond and beyond...the beauty of sound vibration reaching all. I easily trust its power.

—Cindy Chicoine, Spiritual Director, Des Moines, Iowa

In these days of unrest, unhealth, unpeace, and unlove, Joyce Rouse provides us with a clearer, more positive vision. The music of *LovingKindness* deflates our anxieties and inflates our hope. It reminds us of the God who is in every aspect of our world and of the unfathomable love of our universe as a result.

The title song calls us to live in loving kindness and wishes blessings of comfort, peace and plenty upon ourselves, the earth and all humankind. It soothes our rough edges and calms our troubled spirits.

Labyrinth invites us to become part of a circle of wisdom, laughter and compassion, setting in motion the spiral of expanding love that will serve us and save us and our planet. Thank you, Earth Mama, for once again setting beautiful words to beautiful music, for feeding us and directing us to a higher plane where hope, peace and love abound.

—Rita Griffiths, lay leader, Racine, WI

Earth Mama sings of our universe as a place of unfathomable love. The unusual combination of traditional classic spiritual language and our new knowledge of the universe is an invitation to dare embrace the very great changes in our understanding of the world. The changes are often described in new language that is difficult for many people to embrace.

The song *One Stone* asks us "what bridge will you build?" She asks us in another song *What is Mine to Do?* These questions are asked in the context of her welcoming vision of belonging in a world of unfathomable love. A pleasure to listen to, a fresh invitation to "breathe in the unity of the universe."

—Mary Coelho, author and watercolorist, Cambridge, MA

As Earth Mama, Joyce is an international entertainer whose latest musical compositions may be her best yet (though it is hard to pick a favorite). From her new CD *Loving Kindness*, my favorite song is *Labyrinth* – which makes me cry with joy each time I hear it. Indeed, we cannot wait to play that song at our Women's Retreat as we meditatively walk our beloved Turtle Island Labyrinth!

—Rev. Laura M. George, J.D., Executive Director of The Oracle Institute and award-winning author of *The Truth, The Love, and The Light*

All songs are so positive and peaceful touching ideas of prayer, peace, kindness, wisdom, compassion and love of the earth. Listen and your heart and mind will be lifted up!

The one that touched me the most was *ALL IN ALL*. It made me feel SO THANKFUL for all God has given us in our environment. Thinking of the sky, birds and wind each and every time I see or feel them is a precious gift for all of us.

—Sr. Joel Miller, Lafayette, LA

Earth Mama '*Lovingkindness*' songs engage us compassionately and lovingly.

Her music is both meditative and vibrant, with lyrics that ground us in love of Earth and invite us to creative visions of our planet's future.

—Judith Keller, Spiritual Director, Queensland, AU.

"... the whole album is a balm for my battered soul and couldn't come at a better time. Very soothing and lovely."

—Patricia Shih, creative artist, Long Island, NY

The *Labyrinth* song is AMAZING!

This is one of THE MOST BEAUTIFUL songs I have ever heard.

It truly brought tears to my eyes.

— Rev. Laura M. George, J.D., Executive Director

The Oracle Institute & Oracle Institute Press, VA

Rouse House Music

Earth Mama Productions

www.earthmama.org