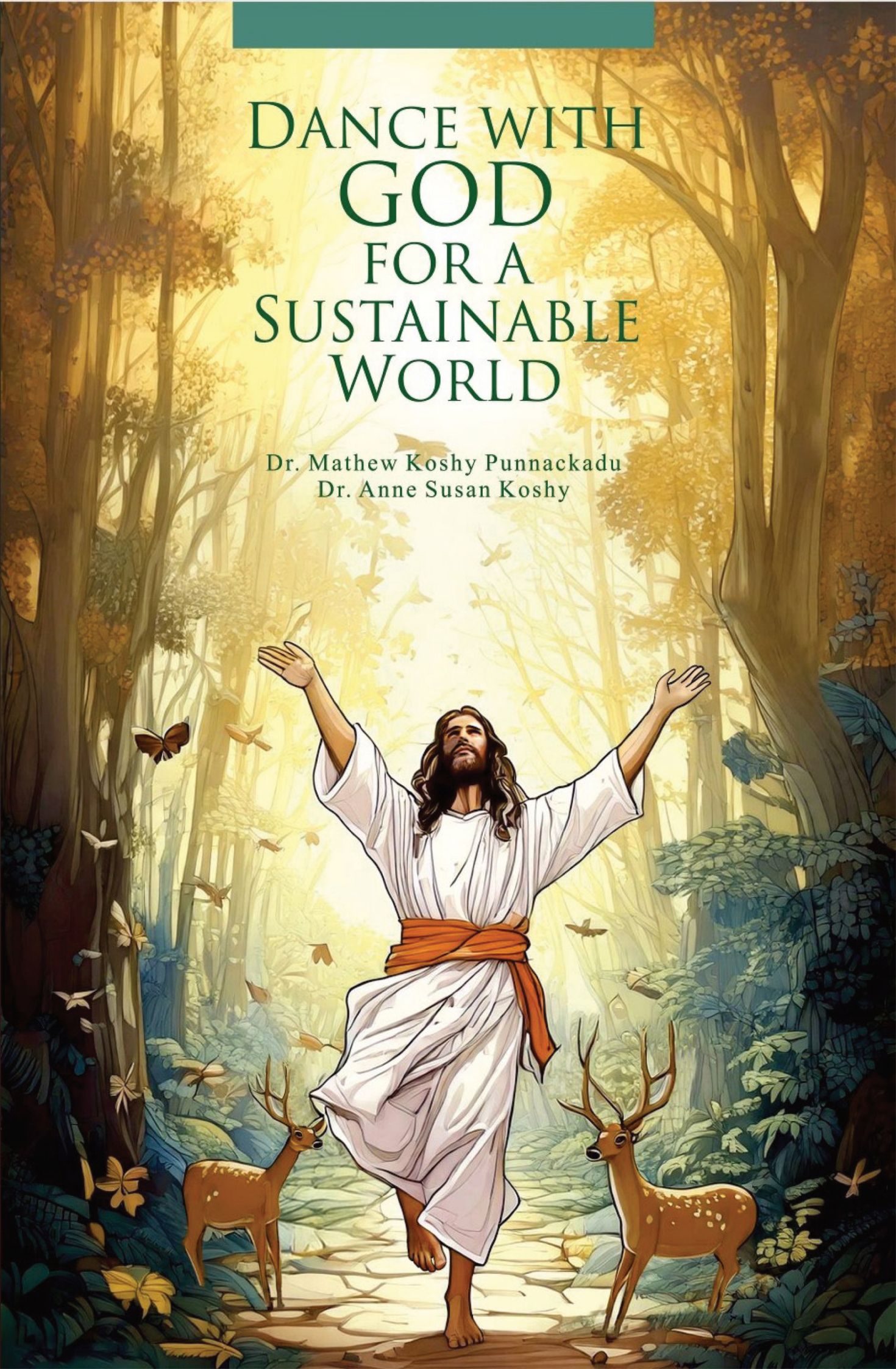


DANCE WITH GOD FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu
Dr. Anne Susan Koshy

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DANCE WITH GOD FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu
Dr Anne Susan Koshy

“Dance” / “Bailar” is a poetic and physical art form that stirs emotions into action. I find joy in dancing, which is also a way to bring praise and honour to God. Re-imagining biblical stories and parables, as you have done, brings these teachings closer to our hearts, presenting Jesus as a dancer. This resource keeps climate justice issues relevant and challenges us to move forward with renewed hope. Let us use it to invite others to join the Dance and become better custodians of God’s creation.



Archbishop Julio E. Murray (Panama)

Chairperson for Anglican Communion Environmental Network &
Chairperson of Climate Justice and Sustainable Development of WCC

“Dance with God for a Sustainable World is a timely reminder that the care for our environment is a biblical imperative. Profound insights from an ecological interpretation of the Bible are presented to us in an easy-to-assimilate way. The authors combine scripture, theology, experience and reason in a lively and engaging dialogue. I pray this contribution will inspire many to embrace eco-spirituality and join the dance of love and justice.”



The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath,

Bishop of Liverpool, Church of England

“I have had the pleasure of reading Dance with God for a Sustainable World, and I am deeply impressed by its significant contribution to the discourse on our relationship with the natural world. Your innovative interpretations of biblical stories provide fresh and relevant insights for today’s context. The thoughtful exploration of the intersections between faith and environmental care makes this work a valuable resource for theologians, scholars, preachers, and all who care about the future of our planet. Your dedication to this vital subject is truly commendable.”



The Rt Revd Dr Royce M. Victor, PhD,

Bishop in CSI Diocese of Malabar

“Dance with God for a Sustainable World is a profoundly insightful and timely work, offering a vital call to reconcile with God’s creation in this era of environmental crisis. Your dedication and creativity shine through, making this book an essential resource for those seeking to restore harmony with the Earth. May God bless you both as you continue this noble mission.”



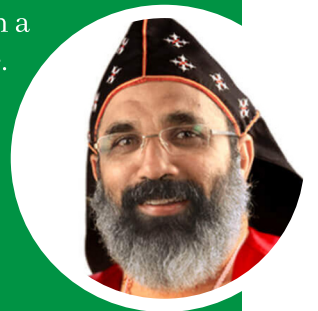
The Rt Revd H. Sharma Nithyanandham,
Bishop in Vellore, CSI

“Ecological awareness invites us into the sacred rhythms of creation. Jesus saw the earth as a divine blessing, a gift to be cherished. By reducing waste, conserving water, and supporting sustainability, we honour the Creator, embracing our role in the spiritual dance of caring for the earth. I appreciate the authors' creativity and imagination in bringing this outstanding book to life.”



The Rt Revd Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian,
Bishop of CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese and the Bishop in charge of Cochin Diocese

“Dance with God for a Sustainable World is not just a book but an invitation to join a cosmic dance. With every step, we celebrate unity, harmony, and ecological justice. Through innovative reflections on biblical stories, this book challenges us to embrace the beauty of diversity and live in rhythm with nature. Dr. Anne Susan Koshy and Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu offer profound insights for creating a sustainable future, inspiring us to work together to heal the world—a prayerful, visionary work for our times.”



The Rt Revd Dr Thomas Mar Theethos,
Bishop, Mar Thoma Church

“Dance with God for a Sustainable World” by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu and Dr. Anne Susan Koshy blends ecological awareness with Christian theology, using the “cosmic dance” to highlight the interconnectedness of creation. It reinterprets Biblical teachings through an ecological lens, urging believers to embrace ecojustice. The book connects classical dance, Eastern philosophy, and Jesus’ teachings, promoting ecological partnership as spiritual devotion and a path to a sustainable future.”



Metropolitan Dr Joseph Mar Dionysius SST,
(Diocesan Bishop of Kollam & President, Ecological Commission of The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church)

"Sydney Carter wrote a long poetic expression in 'The Lord of the Dance', in Rejoice and Sing (Oxford 1963).

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
I danced in the moon and the stars and the Sun
I came down from heaven, and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem, I had my birth ...

It is exciting to rediscover oneself in the great rhythm of life and the divine toward harmonising with the God of Life through the Book Dance with God for a Sustainable World, written by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu and Dr. Anne Susan Koshy. Faith: experience has been articulated passionately, calling humanity to rejoin the 'Dance with Nature', a forgotten spiritual exercise. 'Story-telling' theology evokes our primordial memories in the fellowship of God the Creator. This book, Dance with God... enables and encourages every reader to 're-read' the Bible to find their place in the divine company of our Creator and also the 'Nature', our elder in the creation! This book hopes to revive and rejuvenate our stagnant 'self' to a new rhythm, the 'divine rhythm'."



The Most Revd Dr Govada Dyvasirvadam,

Former Moderator, Church of South India.

Dance with God is a profound exploration of our relationship with nature. It invites us to understand the cosmic dance as a reflection of the rhythm of life that unites all creation in a web of mutuality and interdependence. Through insightful illustrations rooted in Biblical narratives and parables, the book emphasises that every action we take influences the entire cosmos, both visible and invisible. Readers are encouraged to envision the ecosystem as a vast, living organism where humanity becomes part of a dynamic, interconnected community. The authors call on us to participate in this cosmic dance, embracing the rhythm of life in God's household. They urge us to strive for environmental sustainability, advocating for systemic changes necessary to protect the oikos, which are increasingly threatened by ecological imbalances. This volume serves as a timely reminder of humanity's responsibility to care for God's creation.



Dr Mathews George Chunakara,

General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia
& Moderator, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, WCC

"Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu and Dr. Anne Susan Koshy have been tireless advocates for the ecological orientation of church work for many years, not only within the Church of South India but also in the global ecumenical fellowship of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS). This book beautifully merges traditional views of nature with the Judeo-Christian understanding of creation. I hope this book will inspire readers to engage in a dance of love, justice, peace, and compassion."



The Revd Dr Dieter Heidtmann,

General Secretary
EMS - Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Germany

“Dance with God for a Sustainable World is, at its heart, a profound invitation to embrace movement and action for the flourishing of our planet. With creativity and insight, the book weaves biblical stories, contemporary events, and the powerful narratives of nature, revealing vital lessons: that simplicity holds abundance, unity breeds resilience and true joy is found in living justly and sustainably.”



Ms Athena Peralta,

Director, Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, World Council of Churches

“The Holy Trinity is often envisioned as a circle dance (perichoresis)—the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. The dance of God is also the choreography of the cosmos, reflecting the interrelationship between the Creator, creation, and life itself. This passionate retelling of biblical narratives as a sacred dance is inspiring and challenging. It is an excellent resource that invites us to participate in the dance—celebrating and protecting God’s Creation.”



The Revd Dr Rachel Mash (South Africa)

Coordinator – Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

“Over the past decade, I’ve had the privilege of engaging with the transformative work of the Earth Bible projects and the retelling of Jesus’ parables—initiatives led by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, the visionary Director of Ecological Concerns at the CSI Synod. Dance with God for a Sustainable World is a groundbreaking and innovative contribution to eco-theology, offering a unique ecological hermeneutic. I wholeheartedly endorse this remarkable work.”



The Revd Prof Dr Chilkuri Vasantha Rao,

Principal, UTC, Bengaluru

‘Reading this book, ‘Dance with God for a Sustainable World,’ was thought-provoking and enjoyable. The authors have tried reimagining our relationship to the natural world, using Biblical texts and everyday life stories. It constitutes a significant contribution not only to theologians but also to the broader public. The carefully orchestrated sequence of chapters focuses on imagination and depth. It is a great success as a work of scholarship and art (dance).



The Revd Dr John Samuel Ponnusamy,

Former Principal, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai

"Dance with God for a Sustainable World," a beautiful book by Dr. Anne Susan Koshy and Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, is poised to become one of the most significant works on the environment and ecojustice. The book's wide-ranging topics offer profound reflections on eco-theology. It is a reliable and thought-provoking resource.

The Revd Prof Dr C. I. David Joy,
Principal, Kerala United Theological Seminary, Trivandrum



"Dance with God for a Sustainable World offers a profound re-reading of familiar biblical stories through the urgent lens of climate change, emphasising the interconnectedness of faith and environmental care. As the planet faces escalating threats to life and its ecosystems, this timely work invites readers to reflect on their role in nurturing and preserving creation. It is an essential read for anyone committed to protecting Earth's future in the face of growing ecological challenges."

The Revd Dr V. J. John,
Former Professor of New Testament, Bishop's College, Kolkata



"Dance with God for a Sustainable World" is a deeply moving and thought-provoking book that excites the reader and inspires positive action to care for creation. It is a compilation of biblical stories beautifully written through the lens of climate change and its impact. This is a timely and significant work as our planet faces an existential threat due to the climate crisis. It is a must-read for everyone, as we are all responsible for protecting our environment and caring for God's creation. I have known and worked with Prof Mathew Koshy for many years on eco concerns, and I would like to congratulate him and his wife on this timely work.

The Revd Davidson Solanki,
Senior Regional Manager: Asia and the Middle East, USPG, London



"Dance with God for a Sustainable World" is a passionate and imaginative re-telling of select biblical narratives through the lens of a groaning creation. It is comprehensive in scope and accessible in style, making it a valuable resource for all. This work calls us to courageously and creatively choose life amidst the many forces of death that threaten our shared existence on Earth, our common home.

The Revd Dr Peniel Rajkumar,
Director of Global Mission and Global Theologian,
USPG, London.



Dance with God invites us to embrace the natural world's rhythms, reminding us of our identity as Earthlings. This book profoundly impacts how the natural life cycle on Earth shapes human existence. It plays a significant role in revitalising spirituality, theology, and faith in this era of "Ecodemic."



The Revd Dr Y. T. Vinayaraj,

Director, Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, Bengaluru

“Dance With God for a Sustainable World is a conversation between two scriptures—the Bible and nature. This conversation informs and inspires readers to participate in the cosmic dance, celebrating our rhizomatic relationality. By reading together Jesus's parables and contemporary earth stories, the book invites us to create new choreographies for all those committed to dancing together to redeem the planet and the people.”



Dr George Zachariah,

Wesley Lecturer in Theological Studies, Trinity Methodist Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand.



Foreword:

The Revd Dr Duncan Dormor,

General Secretary,
United Society Partners in the Gospel, London.



Preface:

The Revd Dr Daniel Rathnakara Sadananda,

New Testament Theologian,
Former General Secretary, CSI Synod



DANCE WITH GOD FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu
Dr Anne Susan Koshy

“This volume is a powerful testament to the Church of South India’s enduring and profound commitment to placing ecological concerns at the heart of its mission. Drawing inspiration from the Earth Bible Project—a pioneering initiative in ecological hermeneutics—it reflects the boundless vision, creativity, and energy of Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu. Together with his wife, Dr Anne Susan Koshy, they have crafted this remarkable treasure trove of insights and inspiration, offering a vital contribution to the global movement for environmental justice.”

The Revd Dr Duncan Dormor,
General Secretary, United Society Partners in the Gospel, London.

THE PREPUBLICATION ORDER WILL CLOSE BY 10TH DECEMBER.

HARDCOVER (HB): MRP: ₹550, PRE-PUBLICATION RATE: ₹300

PAPERBACK (PB): MRP: ₹450, PRE-PUBLICATION RATE: ₹200

**PUBLISHERS: OMEGA BOOK WORLD, BENGALURU
EMAIL OMEGABOOKWORLD@GMAIL.COM**

Bank Details:

Name: Omega Book World

Bank: South Indian Bank Limited

Account No: 0486073000000322

Branch: Kothanur, Bangalore-560077

IFSC: SIBL0000486

GOOGLE PAY AND WHATSAPP - AROCKYA KUMAR 9986027458

