We are on land that was faithfully stewarded and kept by indigenous people for countless generations. We honor and acknowledge the Ohlone people of the Northern California Bay Area. OR (Chechenyo-speaking Ohlone in what is now the East Bay, the Ramytush (Ram-my-toosh) speaking Ohlone people in what is now called San Francisco, the Karkin-speaking Ohlone near what we call the Carquinas strait, and the Bay Miwok people who lived further East. )

We acknowledge that the land was taken from these people with violence and without treaty. We recognize that the Ohlone people survived over two centuries of genocide and colonization during the Spanish, Mexican, and American eras; that they were enslaved in the missions and that there were California laws not only allowing but rewarding white people for killing them. We recognize, too, that this was often done under cover of Christianity and the doctrine of discovery, which we renounce. We lament the misuse of our religion to oppress and kill. We honor the Indigenous people’s ongoing work for recognition and their fight to recover that relationship with the land that has been so damaged by centuries of violence and oppression.

We also want to acknowledge that as we continue to honor the land and her people, we have amongst us who are indigenous people displaced from other places. We care and acknowledge them in this statement of love.

Wherever you are, I encourage you to learn about the indigenous people of the land you are on. (In the East Bay I would direct you to the Sogorea te’ land trust; in San Francisco, the Ramytush leaders have a website, as well. These are resources that can help us educate ourselves about the history of land and guide us as we discern what future actions might be appropriate.)