

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CONTEMPLATIVE EARTH PRAYER

Experiencing God's Presence in Creation

Abram, David. *Becoming Animal; An Earthly Cosmology*. New York, Random House, 2010.

Through David's stories of his own experiences in wild landscapes in the US and abroad and his sensitive engagement with indigenous ways of knowing, we are guided into a world of wordless conversations with ancient boulders, ravens, and roof beams.

Anderson, Lorraine. *Sisters of the Earth*. New York, Vintage, 1991.

A collection of women's writings on nature -- poems, essays, stories, and journal entries, nature as healer, nature as delight, nature as counterpoint to what is wild in us all.

Berry, Wendell. *A Timbered Choir; the Sabbath Poems 1979-1997*. Washington, DC, Counterpoint, 1998. a collection of poems written in "walking meditation" outdoors on Sunday mornings, an evocation of the natural world showing us time and time again the exquisite beauty of the commonplace.

Baylor, Byrd and Peter Parnell. *The Other Way to Listen*. New York, Scribner's, 1978. a children's story that teaches us how to hear wildflower seeds burst open, rocks murmuring, and the hills singing, and it seems like the most natural thing in the world.

Carson, Rachel. *The Sense of Wonder*. New York, Harper and Row, 1956. a poetic reflection on sharing nature with her young nephew, Roger; "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement," she writes.

Coelho, Mary Conrow. *Awakening Universe, Emerging Personhood: The Power of Contemplation in an Evolving Universe*. Ohio: Wyndham Hall Press, 2002. a guidebook for a new paradigm of human action which connects the Western contemplative tradition to the insights of quantum physics and cosmology in a compelling way.

De Waal, Esther. *Lost in Wonder: Rediscovering the Spiritual Art of Attentiveness*. Collegeville, Minnesota, Liturgical Press, 2003. Retreat mediations and passages for reflection and prayer that lead us into an attentiveness to the world around us, dark and light, gift and mystery.

Hall, James. "Reclaiming the Body of Earth: Born Again of Water and Spirit," Chapter 6 of *Reclaiming the Body in Christian Spirituality*, Thomas Ryan ed., New

York, Paulist, 2004. a short explication of earth faith from the Christian perspective with stories offering an invitation to prayer and communion with God and Christ in the natural world.

Hamma, Robert M. *Earth's Echo: Sacred Encounters with Nature*. Notre Dame, Indiana: Sorin, 2002. a handbook for learning how to listen to the natural world and how to pray using the words of well-known nature authors for inspiration.

Hays, Edward. *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*. Easton, KS, Forest of Peace Books, Inc., 1988. Freshly created morning and evening prayers for each of the four seasons and for almost every life occasion and a manual for those on the path of prayer.

King, Ursula. *Pierre Teilhard DeChardin (Selected Writings)*. New York, Orbis, 1999. a careful selection of the writings of this Jesuit theologian and scientist - a mystic whose vision of the reconciliation of the Christian faith and evolutionary theory speaks deeply to us now.

Lane, Belden. *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes; Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality*. New York, Oxford, 1998. this narrative of healing and transformation in what contemplatives call the apophatic way alternates between experiences in wild landscapes and the wilderness of the dying of the author's mother and a close friend.

Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods; Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill, Algonquin, 2005. a thorough documentation of the human costs of alienation from nature and a prescription for new paths reconnecting children and nature.

May, Gerald. *The Wisdom of Wilderness; Experiencing the Healing Power of Nature*. San Francisco, Harper, 2006. reflective explorations of a contemplative psychiatrist in wild landscapes that bring wisdom and healing for our souls, for the earth, and for our kinship with it.

McDaniel, Jay. *With Roots & Wings: Christianity in an Age of Ecology and Dialogue*. New York: Orbis Books, 1995. an ecological spirituality that is grounded in the Christian vision while also including wisdom of other faith traditions and insights from natural sciences in search of a wholistic spirituality for our time.

Merton, Thomas. *When the Trees Say Nothing*, Notre Dame, Sorin Books, 2003. edited by Kathleen Dingman, this book bring together Merton's nature writings through which we see his deep sense of the sacred in nature which rooted his spirituality.

Muller Wayne. *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight*, New York: Bantam Books,

1999. reflections, stories and gentle exercises that help move us from relentless busyness to Sabbath - a way of being in time where we remember who we are and taste the gifts of spirit and eternity.

Newell, J. Philip. *Christ of the Celts; The Healing of Creation*. Jossey-Bass, California, 2008. a heartfelt unveiling, both ancient in the Celtic tradition and refreshingly "new" in our time, of Christ interwoven with Creation, sharing the same Center, the same heartbeat by a poet, scholar, and former warden of Iona Abbey in Scotland.

Newell, J. Philip. *A New Harmony: The Spirit, The Earth, and the Human Soul*. Jossey-Bass, California, 2011. an articulation of a vision and a pathway toward transformation in our lives and our world toward a deeper harmony, a deeper oneness of our origins and of Earth's destiny.

Oliver, Mary. *Why I Wake Early; New Poems*. Boston, Beacon, 2004. a recent collection by America's foremost poetic voice on our experience of the physical world looking at everyday life and the natural world around us and finding a multitude of reasons to marvel.

Plotkin, Bill. *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche*. New World Library, California, 2003. a guide for engaging with the natural world in all its wildness, mystery, and sacredness that transforms and deepens our soul journey, written by a longtime wilderness guide and depth psychologist, filled with stories and practices.

Primack, Joel R. and Nancy Ellen Abrams. *The View from the Center of the Universe: Discovering Our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos* Riverhead, 2006. an up-to-date scientific telling of the evolution of the universe and its significance for the fate of life on planet earth.

Porter, H. Boone. *A Song of Creation*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1986.

Roberts, Elizabeth and Elias Amidon. *Earth Prayers*. New York: HarperCollins, 1991. a wonderful collection of prayers, poems, and invocations for honoring the earth from around the world.

Sobel, David, "Pocketful of Stones; Memories of Childhood," *Orion* 1993: 12.2
A collection of short childhood memories by various naturalists and nature writers.

Somé, Malidoma Patrice. *The Healing Wisdom of Africa: Finding Life Purpose Through Nature, Ritual, and Community*. New York, NY: Tarcher/Putnam, 1999. Born in West Africa and educated in the West, Malidoma brings us stories and wisdom from the indigenous culture of West Africa that invite us into deeper intimacy with nature.

Swimme, Brian. *Hidden Heart of the Cosmos*. New York, Orbis, 1999.
a lucid introduction to the new cosmology which is dramatically transforming our understanding of the universe and the nature and destiny of humanity.

Tolle, Eckhart. *Stillness Speaks (chapter 7 - Nature)* Novato, CA, New World Library, 2003. A series of short reflections inviting us to allow nature to teach us stillness, resting in Being, and evoking in us awareness of sacredness and connection - our gift to nature.

Vaughn-Lee, Llewellyn. *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*. The Golden Sufi Center, California, 2013. A collection of essays inviting us to reconnect with the sacred within creation. "Our ecological crisis is not a problem to be solved because the world is not a problem but a living being in a state of dangerous imbalance and deep distress."

Being God's Love for Creation

Berry, Thomas. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco, Sierra Club, 1988.
a series of essays exploring how, at this critical juncture in its history, life can continue to evolve on this planet by our entering a new, creative, and restorative relationship with the natural world.

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work; Our Way into the Future*. New York, Bell Tower, 1999.
a series of essays, describing the historical mission of our time: to reinvent the human -- at the species level, with critical reflection, within the community of life systems, in a time-developmental context, by means of story and shared dream experience.

Cummings, Charles. *Eco-Spirituality: Toward a Reverent Life*. NJ: Paulist Press, 1991.
seeing the image of God in all of creation and consequently revering life and the wonder and mystery of the sacred; a succinctly argued theological solution to the "groaning of creation."

Flinders, Carol Lee. *Enduring Lives; Portraits of Women and Faith in Action*. New York: Penguin, 2006. the spiritual journeys of four women "mystics and saints" of our time including Jane Goodhall, illuminating the heart of the feminine sacred.

Fox, Matthew. *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.
a call for a return to mysticism, to a "Cosmic Christ" who is continually incarnated in all creation, and to a spirituality that is inwardly personal and contemplative, yet outwardly driven by justice and compassion.

- Fox, Matthew, *Creativity: Where the Divine and Human Meet*. Tarcher 2002.
an exploration of how, at this time when humanity finds itself at a crossroads, our redemption lies in our being creative as God is and that our creativity serve God's agenda which is always compassion.
- Macy, Joanna and Mollie Brown *Coming Home to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World*. Gabriola Island, BC, Canada, New Society, 1998. a practical guidebook with exercises for groups to walk through the gates of grief to the joy and energy needed for the healing of our world and to move from apathy to "the work that reconnects."
- Macy, Joanna and Chris Johnstone *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*. New World Library, California, 2012. a guide to the transformation of our hearts through gratitude, grief, and interconnection, so that our actions can be part of the Great Turning to a life-sustaining society,
- McFague, Sallie *Super, Natural Christians; How we Should Love Nature*. Minneapolis, Fortress, 1997. how to love nature by shifting from seeing with "the arrogant eye" to seeing with "the loving eye" and how that shift leads us to an ethic of care.
- McFague, Sallie *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril*. Minneapolis, Fortress, 2001. how we can take leave of our high-consumer lifestyle that is unjust to others and unsustainable to the planet and discover another "abundant life" - one rooted in sacramental and prophetic Christianity.
- Mills, Stephanie, "Making Amends to the Myriad Creatures," 11th Annual EF Schumacher Society Lectures, 1991. a monograph describing ecological restoration - healing damaged landscapes, engendering true love for the land.
- O'Murchu, Diarmuid. *Evolutionary Faith*. New York: Orbis Books, 2002.
a deeply reverent approach to the Divine in its eternal unfolding and humanity's next evolution which will both unite humanity with the life of the planet and bring us closer to God.
- Rasmussen, Larry. *Earth Community Earth Ethics*. New York, Orbis, 1996.
a readable and evocative approach to a Christian faith and ethics that is appropriate to a community of the earth, one that can guide us out of the extraordinary dangers threatening all life on our planet.
- Sleeth, J. Matthew. *Serve God, Save the Planet; A Christian Call to Action*. Vermont, Chelsea Green, 2006. a provocative and practical guide to loving and caring for God's creation within the framework of an evangelical Christian faith.
- Whitmire, Catherine. *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity*. Notre Dame, Sorin, 2001

a carefully chosen selection of Quaker writings that provides inspiration for making the spiritual and life changes that lead us to live "from a holy Center where the soul is at home with God."

Wirzba, Norman. *The Paradise of God; Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*. New York, Oxford, 2003. a presentation of an understanding of the Biblical creation story that sees the human as part of a created whole, as servants of that creation, and that leads to a renewed vocation for the human.

Video Recordings

Thomas Berry: The Great Story (Bullfrog Films, www.bullfrogfilms.com). This VHS cassette or DVD reviews the life and work of Thomas Berry; at the heart of the film is Berry's experience of the universe as a cosmic liturgy; the mountains, rivers, birds, fish, all living organisms are not there for our use but for a union which is needed for us to become who we are - a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.

The Awakening Universe; A Liberating New Cosmology for our Time (a film by Nil Robin) (The Pachamama Alliance, www.pachamama.org). Awe-inspiring visual images capture the sweep of the Universe Story. It shows how science, spirit, and ancient wisdom are now converging to reveal that we stand in the very heart of that which created us. Also included is an interview with Brian Swimme.

A Celtic Pilgrimage with John O'Donohue. Irish poet and philosopher John O'Donohue guides us through the sacred landscapes of Western Ireland. Stunning images of this exterior landscape inspire a deep exploration of our inner landscape -- he says there is "a whole invisible world around us that is absolutely crucial to who we are.... these presences around your life -- that's where the divine and the soul all reside."

Keeping the Earth: Religious and Scientific Perspectives on the Environment, DVD or VHS (National Religious Partnership the Environment (NRPE) / Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) - www.ucsusa.org). This inspirational video calls on Americans to serve as good stewards of the natural world. Prominent religious leaders and scientists share their perspectives on the need to protect our environment and the diverse species that share it.

Mother Nature's Child: Growing Outdoors in the Media Age by Camilla Rockwell
This hour long evocative documentary, filled with footage of children of all ages exploring the natural world, demonstrates the power of nature to promote children's well-being and nourish the human spirit. Based on the work of Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods.

The Powers of the Universe: An exploration of the powers coursing through the Universe and each of us. With Brian Swimme. This series of hour-long talks about ten powers of the Universe including Allurement, Emergence, and Radiance invites us to become passionately involved in the world around us, to enter into a time of creative emergence, and to become contemplative containers allowing the radiance of the universe to stream forth through us.

Websites with additional resources and links:

<http://www.webofcreation.org>

<http://www.ecozoicstudies.org>

<http://www.thomasberry.org>

<http://www.storywise.com>

<http://www.thegreatstory.org>

<http://www.brianswimme.org>

<http://www.matthewfox.org>

<http://www.joannamacy.net>