

Eco-Theology/ Eco-Justice/ Eco-Reformation

Resource Guide for the Care of Creation

November, 2021

What's New?

Since the August issue, the following resources have been added:

What's New?

New Books:

Robert Gottfried and Frederick W. Krueger, **Living in an Icon: A Program for Growing Closer to Creation and to God**, (Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, N.Y.), 2019. Three Journeys are presented. Waking Up, a reorientation process involving the disciplines of Noticing, Delight, Appreciation and Respect, Concentration and Thanksgiving. There is a flow and deepening in connection with nature immediately around you. The second Journey is The Road to Kinship, with disciplines of facing our mortality, Reverence, Hospitality, Humility, Sharing Creation's Pain and Settling into Silence. Awareness, with intentional practice leads to a deepening sense of connection. Journey three is Encountering the Burning Bush. The process of awakening and discovering connection deepens into experiencing love and healing. The disciplines include Giving in Love, Responding in Love, Returning God's Love, Beauty and Radiating beauty, Revealing the Children of God with Faith, Vision and Hope. The journeys culminate – or begin again – by asking and discovering “Who is my neighbor?”

Robert Gottfried and Jerry Cappel, **Living in an Icon: A Program for Growing Closer to Creation and to God - Facilitator Guide** (Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, N.Y.), 2019. The facilitator's guide provides step-by-step instructions for designing and leading a discovery program with specific exercises. The design builds on “encounter” with introduction, dedicated time in practice, and group debriefing. Excellent! This program is offered through the Center for Religion and Environment at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and may be applied to completion of a certificate program in Contemplation and Care for Creation.

Katherine Hayhoe, **Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World**, (One Signal Publishers, New York, N.Y.) 2021. Hayhoe is a climate scientist and evangelical Christian, born Canadian and living and working at Texas Tech University. She is the chief scientist for The Nature Conservancy. How do we get started talking about climate change, human responsibility, and climate solutions? This is an encouraging book that addresses what might work and what won't work and why. The thesis is in five sections. 1. The Problem and the Solution – who are and why that matters. 2. Why Facts matter – and why they are not enough. 3. The threat multiplier – the realities of distance and time. 4. We can fix it! – and why we fear solutions. 5. You can make a difference – why this is necessary; what you can do, while maintaining hope.

Ayanna Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson, ed., **All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis**, (One World, New York, N.Y.) 2021. A marvelous book by women, about women and describing what is possible in addressing climate change. Themes include Roots – Advocates

– Reframing – Reshaping – Persisting – Feeling – Nourishing - and Rising. It is said that fear, shame and guilt do not motivate. Hope does. This is a book of hope. Inspiring.

Valerie Kaur, **See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love**, (One World, New York) 2020. Kaur is a civil rights activist, lawyer, filmmaker, innovator and founder of the Revolutionary Love Project. She has earned degrees from Stanford University, Harvard Divinity School and Yale Law School. She brings the faith and values of her Sikh tradition. She advocates that we “see no strangers” but love others. But this requires wondering, grieving and fighting. Once we encounter others as ourselves, we tend their wounds. There are no opponents, only friends we have not made. This requires the energy of rage, while listening and reimagining. There is also in this revolutionary love the need for birthing ourselves, while breathing, pushing and transitioning to someone deeper. There are indeed revolutionary elements to the love required to engage social, political, economic and environmental change.

J. Philip Newell, **Echo of the Soul: The Sacredness of the Human Body**, (Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, PA) 2000. Newell is a familiar author in the fields of spirituality and Celtic wisdom. Here care of creation begins with care of the body. And care of the body involves encountering the Self present within and around. Drawing from distinctive Jewish practices, Newell develops themes of Mystery, Wisdom, Strength, Beauty, Creativity, Eternity and Presence. Each chapter ends with a text for devotional contemplation.

J. Philip Newell, **The Rebirthing of God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings**, (SkyLight Paths, Nashville, TN) 2014. There are many voices that argue that we cannot save creation, nor fix it. We need to reconnect with it. Newell develops themes of Reconnecting with Earth, with Compassion, with Light, with Journey, with Spiritual Practice, with Nonviolence, with the Unconscious, and with Love. Perhaps what we bring to creation care as Christians is weakened because we have neglected the maintenance of our connections.

John Philip Newell, **Sacred Earth Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening To What Our Souls Know and Healing the World**, (Harper Collins, New York, N.Y.), 2021. A very recent work, reclaiming the wisdom of ancient and not-so-ancient ancestors: Pelagius, St. Brigid of Kildare, John Scotus Eriugena, *The Carmina Gadelica*, Alexander John Scott, John Muir, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, George MacLeod and Kenneth White. Each resource brings something sacred to the table. And a meditative guide for a nine-day cycle of contemplation grounds each theme in reflection.

John O’Donohue, **Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom**, (HarperCollins, New York, N.Y.) 1997. The Mystery of Friendship suggests we come from one Source and as we rediscover that Source we rediscover a bond between us. This invites a Spirituality of the Senses, the cultivating of Luminous Solitude, and the poetic importance of daily Work. Creation care rarely addresses time, aging and death. But O’Donohue reminds us of the beauty of aging and the inner harvest that becomes available. His chapter on death, with its treasure of Celtic rituals is wonderful.

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COP26 has ended but now the real work continues holding politicians and industry to the fire and monitoring promises becoming reality. See the [reports on COP26](#) from EarthBeat, *Laudato Si* and GreenFaith. Also view the report by the Centre for Earth Ethics on the [UN Food Systems Summit](#) (73ff)

New Video recordings from Conservation International, Gonzaga Climate Centre, the Center for Earth Ethics and Creation Justice Webinars (23ff)

In particular, look at the lecture by Dr. John Cobb at Gonzaga University on our dying culture and his basis for hope... **Building Communities in a Dying Civilization**, Dr. John B. Cobb. **September 14, 2021 , Gonzaga University Centre for Climate, Society and the Environment, Video recording 1:27:41**

The civilization we have known is dying. Sadly, it is not transforming itself into something that could survive. Accordingly, the death of the civilization will also be the death of billions of people as well as the extinction of thousands of species. Given that it is too late to prevent losses, what can we do? My judgement is that we can build sustainable local communities many of which can survive. If we made this global policy, even now, our losses would be greatly reduced. [Building Communities in a Dying Civilization - YouTube](#)

Check out the new resources on **Sustainable Food Systems** (86ff) and a new lead-in section on **Becoming a Greening Congregation**. (11ff) Note that the theme for the summer national joint assembly of the Anglican church and ELCIC will be “Let There Be Greening...”.

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