

# being christian exploring where you god and life connect life transitions

[#Christian life transitions](#) [#God and life connection](#) [#Spiritual journey](#) [#Faith exploration](#) [#Navigating life with faith](#)

Explore the profound journey of being Christian, discovering how your faith connects with God and every facet of your life. This guide offers insights and support for navigating significant life transitions with spiritual strength and clarity.

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## Being Christian

This inviting book addresses the questions and concerns of newer believers and will inspire those looking for a refresher on what it means to be Christian. Wherever the readers are in their faith journey, they'll find their questions addressed with biblical, theologically sound answers written in an engaging and conversational style. The easy-to-use format allows readers to identify and find their most pressing faith concerns. At the same time, when read in its entirety, Being Christian provides a solid topical introduction to Christianity. Relevant Bible passages are used throughout the book to enhance the reader's understanding of how Scripture informs its answers. Among the subjects discussed and deeply explored are God, the Bible, the church, sin, what it means to be saved by grace, how to discern God's voice, how to deal with guilt, and much more. Designed for use by individuals, it's also a great resource for small groups and new believers' classes

## Transition and Change in Collectivist Family Life

This research-to-practice volume grounds clinicians in a robust, culturally-informed framework for conducting effective therapy with Asian-American couples, families, and individuals. Family, cultural, social, and spiritual dynamics are explored across ethnicities, generations, relationships, and immigrant/citizen experience to reflect a diverse, growing population. Discussion and case examples focus on contrasts, conflicts, and balances involved in acculturation and change, notably the shift from collectivist cultural tradition to a more independent view of the self, gender, choices, and relationships. The contributors' finely shaded guidance and accessible approach will help therapists provide appropriate services for Asian-American clients without minimizing or pathologizing their experiences. Included in the coverage: How Asian American couples negotiate relational harmony: collectivism and gender equality. Through religion: working-class Korean immigrant women negotiate patriarchy. The role of Chinese grandparents in their adult children's parenting practices in the United States. Balancing the old and the new: the case of second generation Filipino American women. Bicultural identity as a protective factor among Southeast Asian American youth who have witnessed domestic violence. Transition

and Change in Collectivist Family Life is a cogent clinical resource for practitioners and mental health professionals with interests in Asian-American family therapy, psychotherapy, collectivism, and faith-based community and counseling.

### Discerning Life Transitions

Every one of us will experience several major life changes over the course of adulthood. Each of these transitions will be marked by external changes, such as change of location, career changes, promotions, or job losses, plus changes in family circumstances, including births, marriage, and death. These transitions are also marked by inner change, since most of us readily examine our faith life and relationship with God during such periods. This book helps people examine both the outward and the inward dimensions of major life changes. This blend of interior examination and attention to practical issues is shown in the questions that set the stage for the discernment process: - What theme or themes do you bring to this process of discernment? - What details would be necessary to know in order to discern an outcome? - What are the financial implications? - What are the implications for family members or others close to you? - What information do you need to start gathering?

### Collision of Worlds

An Episcopal priest maintains that "earth becomes the womb of heaven so that God may be born in the manger of human experience". This book blesses the earthy and calls the church to cease being so lofty and pious. It encourages us to remove the wall that designates a church building as holy and the local bar as secular. Serving as a clergyman for over 45 years, Charles Colwell has seen first hand how the Christian walk can be a bumpy trail and how those bumps become places of great blessing. Doubt becomes merely another facet of faith, not its opposite, and is to be honored. Even our most desperate moments have a way of readying us for a discovery of God's power in our weakness as the gift of God's radical grace transforms us from broken people into empowered pilgrims on the road requiring us to challenge our myopic views of those of other faiths. "Collision of Worlds" separates what is essential rock from what is shifting sand as the author fearlessly addresses: dogmatism, the interpretation of scripture, the gay issue, hell-and, believe it or not the presence of ghosts. This book is fresh, daring, and offers a challenge to believers as well as those who may be sitting on the fence.

### I & II Peter and Jude

The letters of First and Second Peter and Jude are often neglected but they have much wisdom to offer. With this volume, Lewis Donelson integrates historical-critical concerns with theological issues, illustrating how many of the matters facing early Christian communities, and how they chose to deal with them, remain relevant to contemporary readers. --From publisher's description.

### Exploring the Future of Christian Monasticisms

The institution of monasticism in the Christian Church is in general decline, at least in so-called "first world" nations. Though there are many reasons for this, monastic leaders are confronted by the reality of fewer communities, monks, and nuns nonetheless. At the same time, many younger Christians are rediscovering the rich heritage of the monastic tradition. Though they themselves might not be called to join a traditional monastery, they are eager to appropriate monastic practices in their own lives. This has led to a movement known as the "new monasticism" or "secular monasticism." Despite lacking a unified vision and any central organization, these new/secular monastics are attempting, in their own ways, to carry on the tradition and practices of Christian monasticism. As well, there is a movement within historical Christian monasteries to pour new wine into old wineskins. Traditional forms of monasticism are also generally flourishing in developing nations, breathing new life into monasticism. This volume looks at the current monastic landscape to assess where monasticism stands and to imagine ways in which it will grow in the future, leading not only to a renewed Christian monasticism but to new monasticisms.

### Enduring Ministry

For many Christian leaders, the experience of ministry includes enough conflict and disappointment to soon wear off the patina of one's initial enthusiasm. And yet relief and renewal seems too often out of reach. What happens in this season of ministry is more than a matter of whether or not a Christian leader can persist. It is, in fact, possible for a person to engage the call to maturity at the juncture of discipleship

and leadership. Enduring Ministry is designed for those who seek this more durable way forward, one that is infused with grace and inspired by good mission. In Enduring Ministry, Samuel Rahberg draws on insights from the monastic tradition, the ministry of spiritual direction, and the practice of Christian leadership to support and empower women and men for continued ministries in the church, helping them turn from merely enduring to lasting, effective, and vibrant Christian leadership.

### Christian Responses to Spiritual Incursions into the 21st Century Church and Society

This volume provides an account of the surprising 'in-breaking' of spiritual life that persists in our culture, despite the best efforts of atheist spokespersons and secular theorists. Spirituality in its varying forms is irrepressible, resisting our attempts to exclude it by continuing to seep through the cracks and leak through the gaps. When it is allowed to manifest itself through the Christian faith-tradition, it has the power to surprise, transform and renew everything it touches. This volume contains a series of case studies, each of which describes the inner-functionings and out-workings of the spiritual life as a transformative point of contact between God, world, society and self. Each chapter contains high-level inquiry, drawing on best-practice scholarship that is deeply aware of the needs and opportunities that confront 21st-century society.

### The Living Church

If living with a deep awareness of God in our lives is important, how do we do it without moving to a monastery? How do we discern and respond to God amidst the places, routines, and relationships of our everyday lives? In this book, we go in search of God's presence in homes and neighborhoods, supermarkets and sporting arenas, workplaces and weekends. Along the way we look for practices that can lead us more deeply into the way of Jesus: activities like cooking and laundry, walking and sleeping, shopping and conversation with friends. Throughout, we want to better understand how to make God a central part of our lives, and to hear Jesus' call to "follow me" more clearly in the world around us.

### Heaven All Around Us

What impact does the experience of university have on Christian students? Are universities a force for secularisation? Is student faith enduring, or a passing phase? Universities are often associated with a sceptical attitude towards religion. Many assume that academic study leads students away from any existing religious convictions, heightening the appeal of a rationalist secularism increasingly dominant in wider society. And yet Christianity remains highly visible on university campuses and continues to be a prominent identity marker in the lives of many students. Analysing over 4,000 responses to a national survey of students and nearly 100 interviews with students and those working with them, this book examines Christianity in universities across England. It explores the beliefs, values and practices of Christian students. It reveals how the university experience influences their Christian identities, and the influence Christian students have upon university life. Christianity and the University Experience makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in the survival and evolution of religion in the contemporary world. It offers fresh insights relevant to those working with Christian students, including churches, chaplaincies and student organisations, as well as policy-makers and university managers interested in the significance of religion for education, social responsibility and social cohesion.

### Christianity and the University Experience

Ubuntu is a dynamic and celebrated concept in Africa. In the great Sutu-nguni family of Southern Africa, being humane is regarded as the supreme virtue. The essence of this philosophy of life, called ubuntu or botho, is human relatedness and dignity. The Shona from Zimbabwe articulate it as: I am because we are; I exist because the community exists. This volume offers twenty-two such reflections on practicing ubuntu as it relates to justice, personhood, and human dignity, both in Southern Africa, as well as in a wider international context. It highlights the potential of ubuntu for enriching our understanding of justice, personhood, and human dignity in a globalizing world. (Series: International Practical Theology, Vol. 20) [Subject: African Studies, Religious Studies]

### Practicing Ubuntu

Is your Man Card intact? Turn in your man card! Most men have heard this term man card before. It's a good-natured way we evaluate each other as men on whether we are acting like so-called manly men.

This book introduces the concept of a new kind of man card: a man card for Christians. We explore the standard-issue man card, examples of well-known people who have lost their man card as well as a comparison to biblical men who also lost their man card. The Christian Man Card is discussed in detail from how it gets issued, who issues it, the ground rules for keeping this man card, and what you must do to get it back should you lose it. Today's world offers many temptations for a man, and we can quickly get sidetracked from how we are supposed to conduct ourselves. Morality and accountability are quickly becoming a thing of the past. Our actions can hurt or even destroy our loved ones and the people around us. The devastation that can be created by our actions can be detrimental to future generations. Inside Man Card (for Christians), you will learn the essential character traits we should portray and the behaviors we must adhere to in order to hold onto your Christian Man Card. The book includes clear direction on how to start the process of conforming to a different way of life and the top areas we can address immediately to help in the transformation. Our future as a decent society relies on men receiving and maintaining their man card for Christians.

### Man Card

Issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience: their sense of identity, their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. The life and mission of the Church of England – and of the worldwide Anglican Communion – are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements about these matters, divisions brought into sharper focus because of society's changing perspectives and practices, especially in relation to LGTBI+ people. Living in Love and Faith sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, the Living in Love and Faith project has involved many people across the Church and beyond, bringing together a great diversity and depth of expertise, conviction and experience to explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say. After a Foreword from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the book opens with an invitation from the Bishops of the Church of England to embark on a learning journey in five parts: Part One sets current questions about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the context of God's gift of life. Part Two takes a careful and dispassionate look at what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Three explores current Christian thinking and discussions about human identity, sexuality, and marriage. In the light of the good news of Jesus Christ, how do Christians understand and respond to the trends observed in Part Two? Part Four considers what it means for us as individuals and as a church to be Christ-like when it comes to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Five invites the reader into a conversation between some of the people who have been involved in writing this book who, having engaged with and written Parts One to Four, nevertheless come to different conclusions. Amid the biblical, theological, historical and scientific exploration, each part includes Encounters with real, contemporary disciples of Christ whose stories raise questions which ask us to discern where God is active in human lives. The book ends with an appeal from the Bishops to join them in a period of discernment and decision-making following the publication of Living in Love and Faith. The Living in Love and Faith book is accompanied by a range of free digital resources including films, podcasts and an online library, together with Living in Love and Faith: The Course, a 5-session course which is designed to help local groups engage with the resources, also published by Church House Publishing.

### Living in Love and Faith

Designed to empower preachers as they lead congregations to connect their lives to Scripture, Connections features a broad set of interpretive tools that provide commentary and worship aids on the Revised Common Lectionary. This nine-volume series offers creative commentary on each reading in the three-year lectionary cycle by viewing that reading through the lens of its connections to the rest of Scripture and then seeing the reading through the lenses of culture, film, fiction, ethics, and other aspects of contemporary life. Commentaries on the Psalms make connections to the other readings and to the congregations experience of worship. Connections is published in partnership with Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

### Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship

The global growth of Pentecostal movements during the course of the twentieth century has been widely documented although, to date, there has been little written on their developing ecclesiology. After making the case for a concrete rather than idealised approach to ecclesiology, this book describes and analyses the transitions that have framed the ways in which Australian Pentecostals have understood church life and mission. From a loosely knit faith missions movement, to congregational free church structures, to the so-called apostolic models of mega-churches, Australian pentecostalism stands as a microcosmos of ecclesial developments that have occurred throughout the world. This book, therefore, provides a means of reflecting upon what has been gained and lost in the process of ecclesiological change.

#### Pentecostal Churches in Transition

A smorgasbord of ideas, stories, and practical suggestions on how to be spiritual companions to young people, sharing the richness of our faith while riding along on the awesome—and often surprising—journeys of those in our spiritual care.

#### Hungry Souls, Holy Companions

Logos Book of the Year Meetings can sap our energy, rupture community and thoroughly demoralize us. They can go on forever with no resolution. Or they can rush along without consensus just to "get through the agenda." What if there was another way? Church boards and other Christian leadership teams have long relied on models adapted from the business world. Ruth Haley Barton, president of the Transforming Center, helps teams transition to a much more suitable model—the spiritual community that discerns God's will together. In these pages you will discover personal and group practices that will lead you into a new way of experiencing community and listening to God together.

#### Pursuing God's Will Together

Together: Community as a Means of Grace addresses the concept of community as an avenue to a deeper relationship with God. Using an ecumenical Wesleyan approach, Duggins explores the concept of "God as community" to conclude that bringing people together in almost any setting allows them to grow in God's image. He frames this idea using the historical concept of the "means of grace": the ordinary ways in which people encounter God. Drawing heavily on the work of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, Duggins begins with a reflection on the community-building aspects of traditional church. He then uses storytelling to introduce four common forms of community: community through work, community through food, community through children's schools and activities, and community through shared recreational activities. Together is intended to help Christian people embrace the freedom to experiment with alternative forms of Christian community. Duggins nudges the missional imagination of people who long for spiritual connection and growth, but for whom traditional church is not the answer. Using a "yes, and" approach, he shows that traditional church can empower and stand alongside new forms of community, each of which can act as a means of grace.

#### Together

This open access book makes a case for a socially inclusive energy transition and illustrates how engineering and public policy professionals can contribute to shaping an inclusive energy transition, building on a socio-technical systems engineering approach. Accomplishing a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy in 2050 is a daunting challenge. This book explores the challenges of the energy transition from the perspectives of technological innovation, public policy, social values and ethics. It elaborates on two particular gaps in the design of public policy interventions focused on decarbonization of the energy system and discusses how both could be remedied. First, the siloed organization of public administration fails to account for the many interdependencies between the energy sector, the mobility system, digital infrastructure and the built environment. Cross-sector coordination of policies and policy instruments is needed to avoid potentially adverse effects upon society and the economy, which may hamper the energy transition rather than accelerate it. Second, energy and climate policies pay insufficient attention to the social values at stake in the energy transition. In addressing these gaps, this book intends to inspire decision makers engaged in the energy transition to embrace the transition as an opportunity to bring a more inclusive society into being.

#### Shaping an Inclusive Energy Transition

Updating the classic guide to turning around decline in the small membership church, this new edition shows what makes a turnaround successful in the long term.

### Turnaround and Beyond

Change is hard. Whether it's a good transition like a job promotion or a bad disruption like a devastating health diagnosis, it's stressful. Gina Brenna Butz shares her personal stories of struggling with change and encourages you to trust God. She writes with compassion as she urges you to rely on God's goodness, lean on Him for strength, rejoice that He is constant, and ultimately to find satisfaction in Him rather than in circumstances. Scripture helps you see change from the viewpoint of your heavenly Father. You can rest knowing He works all things together for the good of His children, even in seasons of stress-inducing change.

### Making Peace with Change

Addresses the distance between patients and healthcare professionals by using a patient-centred approach known as the 'biopsychosocial model' or 'contextual care'. Aimed at healthcare professionals including doctors, nurses, therapists and others, this book provides a framework to improve communication with patients and their families.

### Healthcare and Spirituality

Plenty of books diagnose our post-Christian malaise. Here's a dynamic solution. The post-Christian cultural turn is creating the conditions for a crisis of confidence in the church and in pastoral ministry. While such changes can be disruptive and disconcerting, our new cultural reality makes the present moment a uniquely exciting time to reimagine churches that bear witness to Christ. How do we move beyond cookie-cutter approaches (which may have worked in the past) to building the creative, compassionate, and incarnational churches we long for? Biblical scholar and accomplished jazz pianist Mark Glanville plays with a metaphor of improvisation to chart twelve themes as the key "notes" on which Christian communities play as they bear witness to God in the world today. Building on these two dynamic traditions—jazz music and Christian community—Improvising Church unfolds a biblical, practical, and inventive vision for churches seeking to receive and extend the healing of Christ.

### Improvising Church

Break open this ancient contemplative practice of listening deeply for God's voice in sacred texts. Drawing on her own experience as a monk in the world, Christine Valters Paintner introduces the foundations for a practice of lectio divina. She closely examines each of the four movements of lectio divina as well as the rhythm they create when practiced as a process.

### Lectio Divina--The Sacred Art

The Spiritual Road: Helping Others Grow Spiritually There is a process of spiritual growth. Do you know what it is? Can you guide others along its path? The Spiritual Road: Helping Others Grow Spiritually overviews this process with a step by step approach using nearly sixty real-life vignettes, clarifying charts, over 250 documented scripture citations, supportive Christian music from fifth through the twenty-first centuries as well as referencing important spiritual authors. Dr. Haynes writes for all Christian helpers including Bible study and church leaders as well as pastors, spiritual directors and small group facilitators. In addition to encouragement and increased understanding of spiritual growth, spiritual helpers will also receive a toolbox to assist with the on-the-road spiritual difficulties including types of prayer, effective forgiveness, dealing with pain, spiritual Dark Nights, subversive words and demons from the unconscious. Those familiar with psycho-social and faith developmental theories will appreciate Dr. Haynes' comparisons with the process of personal spiritual growth. Endnotes and a bibliography as well as general and scriptural indexes round out this extensive work. The book's overall purpose is to assist Christians to grow in their personal relationship with God and in mature Christ-likeness in order to affect the Community of God in the world. Richard A. Haynes is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), receiving his Doctor of Minister degree, with distinction, from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois in spirituality and small groups. Dr. Haynes has served as a spiritual director for over twenty-five years, was founder and executive director of Paraclete Retreat Center, Inc. for eighteen years and retired after twenty-nine years in pastoral ministry. In retirement, he continues to provide spiritual guidance in person and through

Skype (rahaynes201@aol.com). He and his wife, Patricia, live in south-central Indiana and have one married adult son.

### The Spiritual Road

America gets more diverse than ever before, and it is our responsibility to respect this diversity before us. Although many people claim that diversity matters, there are so many marginalized people who have not been heard yet. Korean-speaking young people are one of them. They have been marginalized not only by the main culture but also by their own community. This study illuminates this hidden population and their stories as emerging adults with socially, emotionally, and spiritually unstable status. With a practical theology approach, this study provides not only about who are the Korean-speaking young adults but also what is the current praxis and how the immigrant community can have different imaginations about their future with these young people. Including data gathered survey and in-depth interviews, Ignored is the first comprehensive study that addresses Korean-speaking young people. By sharing unheard stories, this book invites us to understand our diverse community. Furthermore, this book brings new imagination of listening others who have been ignored.

### Ignored

"FAITHFUL MINDS" is a comprehensive guide that combines the principles of Biblical counseling with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help readers achieve emotional and mental wellness. This book explores the intersection of these two disciplines, offering practical advice and guidance for those seeking to improve their mental health through a faith-based approach. Drawing on Biblical teachings and psychological insights, the author provides a step-by-step guide to understanding the root causes of emotional struggles and negative thinking patterns. Readers will learn how to identify and challenge negative thoughts and beliefs, develop healthy coping mechanisms, and cultivate a more positive and resilient mindset. This book is an essential resource for anyone seeking to improve their mental and emotional health through a faith-based approach. It offers practical guidance, insightful anecdotes, and helpful exercises to help readers apply the principles of Biblical counseling and CBT to their daily lives. Whether you are struggling with anxiety, depression, or other emotional challenges, "FAITHFUL MINDS" offers a path to healing and renewed hope. Throughout this book, certain phrases and scriptures are repeated for emphasis, as a way of inculcating them into your way of thinking. This is a technique that Jesus also used, where he repeated his points to ensure that it was well established in the minds of his listeners. Repetition not only aids in memory but can also be used to effectively highlight key ideas and help your audience to understand them clearly. A good example of this is found in the book of Proverbs, where God inspired Solomon to repeat certain proverbs almost word-for-word, in order to convey knowledge and sharpen understanding.

### FAITHFUL MINDS

Provides an accessible overview of the theory and practice of Christian apologetics, written by one of the leading experts in the field Christian Apologetics is a compact yet comprehensive introduction to the theological discipline devoted to the intellectual defense of the truth of the Christian religion. Assuming no previous knowledge of Christian apologetics, this student-friendly textbook clearly explains the major theoretical and practical aspects of the tradition while exploring its core themes, historical development, and current debates. Using a non-denominational approach, world-renowned Christian scholar Alister E. McGrath engages the ideas of a wide range of representative apologists and explores the ways they have been applied throughout history, and can still be used today. Concise, easy-to-digest chapters gradually build students' knowledge and confidence, moving from basic definitions and concepts to more advanced theory and practical application. Throughout the text, the author engages a variety of cultural concerns about religious belief, illustrates the real-life connection of apologetic studies and ministries in the Church, and offers clear explanations and vigorous defenses of the faith that students can adopt in their own writing and speaking. Introduces the art and science of explaining and commending the Christian faith Presents approaches to apologetics that emphasize the positive appeal of Christianity to the imagination and emotions Covers the major approaches to apologetics, identifies their strengths and weaknesses, and discusses their key representatives Helps readers in ministry and outreach defend Christianity against misunderstandings and misrepresentations Addresses the real-world application of apologetics, including role models, good practice, and established wisdom Features case studies of Christian apologists such as G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Tim Keller Includes study questions, activities, further reading lists, full references, and links to video and

audio resources developed by the author Designed to meet the needs of teachers looking for a clear and reliable introduction to the field, *Christian Apologetics: An Introduction* is an excellent textbook for undergraduate and graduate apologetics courses in colleges and seminaries, as well as church courses and study groups across Christian denominations.

### Christian Apologetics

As Christians we want our relationship with God to grow, to mature. We consider things like our devotional life and spiritual formation as fundamental to our Christian faith. But then there's the rest of life - young kids or long hours at work, financial pressures, illness in the family, high points, disappointments, faith crises. We want a faith that's deep - but also a life that works. How do we get a life beyond the quiet time? In *REAL GOD, REAL LIFE* popular speaker Jo Saxton shows us how we can follow in Paul's footsteps and 'train ourselves to be godly'. Full of practical ideas and anecdotes, this is spiritual formation for everyone.

### Real God, Real Life

All signs point to Christian education having lost its theological location and prominence in the life of the Western Protestant church. The Emerging Church movement, as an intentionally postmodern approach to ministry in the contemporary context, may, however, offer insights to reinterpret Christian education. This significant movement in today's church gives Christian education a new interpretive framework that is theologically located at an intersection of doxology and doctrine. In her examination of postmodern faith formation, Wendi Sargeant explores the importance of the Christian worshipping community as the most appropriate setting for Christian education. Practitioners and students will benefit from the ready-to-use teaching and learning matrix, and all those with interest in the formation of faith in themselves and others will draw much from the way Sargeant situates worship as the basis for enhancing Christian formation and ethos.

### Christian Education and the Emerging Church

Bigger, stronger, better! Russell Anderson has taken the most original and successful lectionary resource in history and improved on it. He has kept all of the traditional features that have made it a classic, such as: overviews of each liturgical season, commentaries compatible with the Revised Common and Roman Catholic lectionaries (plus Lutheran and Episcopal lections for those gradually converting to the Revised Common Lectionary), an introduction to the featured Gospel narrator (Matthew, in Cycle A), theological reflections for exploring the relationships between the texts, and wide margins for note-taking. Instead of stopping there, though, he has added: a 7" x 10" one-size-fits-all format, a suggested sermon title for each week, a Sermon Angle that briefly explicates the theological theme for the day (sometimes providing two or three of them), and illustrative stories in each chapter. Contained are crisp, tightly written lectionary helps that zero in on the critical themes of the texts, augmented with illustrative materials. The Prayer of the Day suggestions summarize and apply the themes in helpful language. The Reverend Dr. Dennis Anderson President, Trinity Lutheran Seminary Pastor Anderson's ability to relate eternal truths in the language of our 20th century society will enable those informed by his writings to communicate the TRUTH in a way that will gain attention and guide the living of life. The Reverend Dr. Reuben T. Swanson Former Bishop, Nebraska Synod, Lutheran Church in America Former Secretary, Evangelical Church in America Russell F. Anderson is pastor at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. He received his master of divinity degree from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and his doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological School in Chicago. He has published his own worship and homiletical resources under the banner "Worship Windows." He is married and the father of two grown daughters.

### Lectionary Preaching Workbook

*Kingdom Calling* offers a compelling theological grounding for the vocation, ministry and discipleship of the whole people of God. Building creatively on previous studies, it challenges all of us to change so that the whole church can serve the whole mission of God in the whole of life. *Kingdom Calling* provides a thorough diagnosis of the theological factors that have prevented such a vision being realised over previous decades. These factors are embedded in the social realities of our everyday life and in the sometimes hidden assumptions that shape our thinking in the church. By setting out a sustained proposal for the renewal of our theological imagination, the report points the way to address some deep running fault lines in our common life. Written in an accessible style, *Kingdom Calling* looks in turn at

the vocation, ministry and discipleship of all God's people, asking what kind of theological thinking and imagining might most help us to flourish together. It affirms and celebrates the vital lay and ordained ministry roles that support the church in God's mission, and it identifies changes in practice that can better foster the vocation, ministry and discipleship of the whole people of God.

### Kingdom Calling

*Embedded Faith* explores the way Christian faith journeys of young adults are embedded within church communities. It discusses why young adults go to church, why they change churches, why some are involved in the practice of church two-timing, and what they are looking for in a church. *Embedded Faith* also provides valuable insight into the relationship between geographic mobility and belonging to a faith community in a transient age. *Embedded Faith* discusses areas where young adults are engaging and disengaging with church life, such as preaching and worship. It addresses how stage of life transitions and life experience impact on one's experience and involvement in church. This book will enable anyone working with young adults in a church context to give shape to a ministry that is more sensitive and connected to the realities faced by young adults, and will call you to the importance of listening to the lived experience of young adults as it relates to faith and church.

### Embedded Faith

This is the first in a two part project, aimed at postgraduates and academics interested in the expanding volume of work and research surrounding theological reflection. Brought together in Volume one is a comprehensive collection of models of theological reflection. By bringing this diverse collection together in one place, the editors create a unique reference work that allows a clear and visible contrast and comparison as each model is treated formally and in a standard format. Throughout each chapter the distinguishing features of the model are examined, the genealogy and origins are discussed, worked examples of the model applied to contemporary theology are provided, and critical commentary, future trends and exercises and questions are provided

### Theological Reflection: Methods

Places and spaces are key factors in how individuals and groups construct their identities. Identity theories have emphasised that the construction of an identity does not follow abstract and universal processes but is also deeply rooted in specific historical, cultural, social and material environments. The essays in this volume explore how various groups in Late Antiquity rooted their identity in special places that were imbued with meanings derived from history and tradition. In Part I, essays explore the tension between the Classical heritage in public, especially urban spaces, in the form of ancient artwork and civic celebrations and the Church's appropriation of that space through doctrinal disputes and rival public performances. Parts II and III investigate how particular locations expressed, and formed, the theological and social identities of Christian and Jewish groups by bringing together fresh insights from the archaeological and textual evidence. Together the essays here demonstrate how the use and interpretation of shared spaces contributed to the self-identity of specific groups in Late Antiquity and in so doing issued challenges, and caused conflict, with other social and religious groups.

### Spaces in Late Antiquity

Academy of Parish Clergy's Top Ten Books for Parish Ministry Vocational discernment, says R. Paul Stevens, is a lifelong process — one that takes on even more significance in later life. In this book Stevens argues that our calling does not end with formal retirement; to the contrary, we do well to keep on working, if possible, till life's end. Stevens delves into matters of calling, spirituality, and legacy in retirement, showing that we must continue to discern our vocation as we grow older in order to remain meaningfully engaged for the rest of our lives. He reframes retirement as a time of continued calling and productivity and points to biblical wisdom that can help us redefine aging as an extraordinarily fruitful season of life.

### Aging Matters

In response to the recent critiques made against Balthasar's interpretation of Christ's descent into hell on Holy Saturday, this book argues that Balthasar does not intend to present a radical reinterpretation of the doctrine in contrast to the traditional teachings but rather intends to fully appreciate the in-betweenness of Holy Saturday as the day of transition from the cross to the resurrection, from the old

aeon to the new. The book further argues that this awareness of the "in-betweenness" can be detected throughout Balthasar's theological corpus and provides a clue to interpret his thoughts on Christian discipleship and suffering. After all, the Christian existence is also characterized by the transition from the old aeon to the new, from suffering to victory. The Christian believes that their victory is already here and not here yet. In this sense, the Christian still lives in Holy Saturday. Eventually, we can deepen our understanding of Christian discipleship and suffering in the light of Holy Saturday. In short, we could patiently endure our Holy Saturday because of Christ's Holy Saturday in hell.

#### And Still We Wait

For those whose context is rich with cultural and communal rites of passage, how does the church ensure that baptism is not just another ritual, but is understood to be a deliberate participation of a Christian in an event that brings decisive change into the new life that Christ brings? In this in-depth study, Dr. Pontien Ndagijimana Batibuka explores afresh Paul's teaching on baptism demonstrating that it encompasses both divine intervention and human action, rather than simply being about an action of Christ. Readers are invited to re-examine Romans 5:12–6:23 through a socio-religious lens rather than the christological reading that has historically prevailed. Through Dr. Batibuka's skilful exploration of the stages of initiation in antiquity he argues the importance of Christians actively taking responsibility for their baptism, while further shedding light on the interaction of both the divine and human roles. Baptism is more than a ritual done to a passive candidate, it is an event in which the believer personally decides for, and pledges allegiance to, Jesus Christ.

#### Baptism as an Event of Taking Responsibility

The image of God as light abounds in Scripture and the Christian tradition. In *The Radiance of God*, Douglas M. Koskela explores the theme of divine radiance across the span of Christian doctrine. The book develops a constructive account of the Christian gospel that traces the journey from darkness into the marvelous light of God. Drawing on an ecumenical range of voices in the tradition, Koskela frames the discussion in terms of three central concepts: allure, movement, and joy. The image of divine radiance suggests the sheer beauty of God that captivates the attention of God's creatures in wonder, love, and praise. The brilliance of this light initiates a process of movement toward it as the Holy Spirit transforms us in the image of Christ, the light of the world. The culmination of this journey is inexpressible and unending joy as we are immersed in the divine light. By following this threefold pattern through the classic loci of Christian doctrine, this volume offers a sustained and coherent treatment of the economy of salvation from creation to consummation.

#### The Radiance of God