

Annotated Bibliography of Environmental Issue and Spirituality. **Prepared by Robert Shore-Goss**

UCC Authors

Antal, James, [*Climate Church, Climate World*](#), New York, Lexington Books, 2018. Book by former UCC Conference Minister that looks at the emerging and future Climate Church.

Berndt, Brooks, [*Cathedral on Fire: A Church Handbook for Climate Change*](#), UCC Resources. Book by UCC Environmental Justice Minister is a good starter book for congregations trying to form an environmental justice team.

Hastings, Stephen L., *Whole-Earth Ethics for Holy Ground: The Development and Practice of Sacramental Creation Spirituality*, New York, Lexington Books, 2017. Book by UCC clergy-theologian that develops a sacramental spirituality to ground environmental ethics.

Shore-Goss, Robert E. *God is Green: An Eco-Spirituality of Incarnate Spirituality*, Cascade Books, 2016. Book by a retired clergy of the first Creation Justice Church in the UCC. It presents an Earth-centered spirituality that reclaims compassionate action as foundational for environmental care and action.

Shore-Goss, Robert E. *The Insurgency of the Spirit: Jesus's Liberation Animist Spirituality, Empire, and Creating Christian Protectors*, New York, Lexington Books, 2020. Shore-Goss has reclaimed an Earth-loving Jesus struggling against Roman colonialism and imperial religion to manifest the dynamics of an inclusive compassion and practice God's kin-dom. He draws strong parallels between the colonialization of Jewish peasants and North American indigenous peoples. The Resolution on the Rights of Nature proposed for the UCC Synod originated from his research.

Environmental Justice Theologians

Boff, Leonardo, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, Orbis Books, 1997. Brazilian liberation theologian examines God's preferential option for the poor and the vulnerable Earth, and he intertwines the suffering of the poor with the suffering of the Earth. He incorporates a care for the indigenous peoples of the Amazon.

Edwards, Denis, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith: The Change of Heart that leads to a New*

Way of Living on Earth, Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 2006. As an Australian Catholic theologian, Edwards locates ecology at the heart and practice of Christian faith.

Lott, David. B. (ed), *Sallie McFague: Collected Readings*, Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2013. While this is a collection of McFague's writings on many topics, her book *A New Climate for Theology* would also be good for congregational discussions.

Tucker, Evelyn & Grim, John Grim (ed) *Thomas Berry: Selected Writings on the Earth Community*, Orbis Books, 2016. An introduction to the writings of Earth theologian and Buddhist scholar Thomas Berry. All of Berry's books are recommended, in particular, *The Dream of the Earth*.

Wallace, Mark I, *When God was Bird: Christianity, Animism, and Re-Enchantment of the World*, New York, Fordham University Press, 2019. Wallace reclaims an animist spirituality, grounded in the Holy Spirit as ensouling herself in Creation (Earth) and raises the issue of human damaging the Earth as a wounding of God's Spirit. His other books, *Green Christianity* and *Finding God in the Singing River*.

Wirzba, Norman, *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*, Oxford University of Press, 2003. Wirzba, a Canadian theologian, has developed a garden spirituality. He envisions gardening rather than stewardship as appropriate approach to Earth care. Wirzba has a number books on food justice.

Environmental Ethics

Nash, James A., *Loving Nature: Ecological Integrity and Christian Responsibility*, Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1991. A good introduction to environmental justice ethics.

Nash, Roderick Frazier, *The Rights of Nature: A History on Environmental Ethics*, University of Wisconsin, 1989. Classic work for environmental ethics.

Rasmussen, Larry L., *Earth Community, Earth Ethics*, Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 1998. A very good book for liberation Christian ethics.

Animal Ethics

Bekoff, Marc, *Rewilding our Hearts: Building Pathways of Compassion and Co-existence*, New World Library, 2014. Bekoff is a Buddhist Ethnologist who applies the environmental notion of rewilding to rewilding the human heart.

Benevenuti, Anne, *Spirit Unleashed: Re-Imagining Human Animal Relations*, Cascade Books, 2014. As an Episcopal priest and professor, Benevenuti writes a clear case for non-human animals.

Deane-Drummond & Clough, David (ed), *Creaturely Theology: On God, Humans, and Other Animals*, London, SCM Press, 2009. This is a good anthology, demonstrating the range of animal theology on the moral status of non-human animals and their redemption.

Gross, Aaron, *The Question of Animal: Theoretical Stakes, Practical Implication*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2014. Also, read and watch the interview by Andrew Aghapour, "[What If Animals Believe in God?](#)"

Linzey, Andrew, *Animal Theology*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1994. As the Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, Linzey also presents a strong case in *Christianity and the Rights of Animals*, Eugene, Wipf & Stock, 1989. Linzey is a world authority on Christian theology and animals. *Animal Rites: Liturgies of Animal Care* and *Christianity and the Rights of Animals* are additionally important works for Christians to consider.

Miller, Daniel, *Animal Ethics and Theology: The Lens of the Good Samaritan*, New York, Routledge, 2013. Miller uses Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan to argue that non-human animals are neighbors because of evolutionary proximity.

Rights of Nature

Boyd, David E., *The Rights of Nature: A Legal Revolution that Could Save the World*, Toronto, ECW Press, 2017. Good introduction to the history of the movement of the Rights of Nature.

Hart, John, *Sacramental Commons: Christian Ecological Ethics*, New York, Rowman & Littlefield, 2006. Hart develops his environmental ethic on Francis of Assisi and Brazilian liberation theologian Leonardo Boff.

McAnally, Elizabeth, *Loving Water Across Religions: Contributions to an Integral Water Ethic*, Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 2019. This raises the question of water's subjectivity within Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. For Christians, McAnally looks at traditional Christian objections to use contaminated and polluted waters for baptism. She understands water as a Bodhisattva in Buddhism

Hall, Matthew, *Plants as Persons: A Philosophical Botany*, Albany, SUNY, 2011. This is a provocative book on plants as persons. It is very useful for discussion on the Rights of Nature.

LaFollette, Cameron & Maser, Chris (ed.), *Sustainability and the Rights of Nature: An Introduction*, Boca Raton, CRC Press, 2017. This is a comprehensive and international exploration of the emergence of the Rights of Nature movement.

Reading the Bible from an Environmental Context

Earth Bible Project applies six biblical ecological principles to reading the Bible from an ecological perspective. Edited by Norman Habel.

Habel, Norman C., & Trudinger (ed) *Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics*, Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

Baukhram, Richard, *Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology*, London, Paternoster, 2014.

Horrell, David G., Hunt, Cheryl, and Southgate, Christopher, *Greening Paul: Rereading the Apostle in a Time of Ecological Ethics*, Waco, 2010. A group of biblical scholars read Paul and Deutero-Pauline Letters in light of addressing climate change.

Bredin, Mark, *The Ecology of the New Testament: Creation, Re-Creation, and the Environment*, Colorado Springs, Biblica, 2010.

Echlin, Edward, *The Cosmic Circle: Jesus and Ecology*, Dublin, Columban Press, 2004.

(For the most comprehensive study of the Earth-loving Jesus, see *The Insurgency of the Spirit*.)

Engaging Nature as Spiritual Practice

Chase, Steven, *Nature as Spiritual Practice*, Grand Rapids, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2011. This book serves as a guide for Christian engagement with nature, with specific questions and suggestions to guide your meditation.

Chase, Steven, *A Field Guide to Nature as Spiritual Practice*, Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans, Publishing Co., 2011.

Fischer, Kathleen, *Loving Creation: Christian Spirituality, Earth-Centered and Just*, New York, Paulist Press, 2009. Fischer explores a variety of Christian meditation practices with nature.

Kaza, Stephanie, *Conversation with Trees: An Intimate Ecology*, Boulder, Shambhala

Books, 1993. Kaza introduces readers into a mindfulness practice to engage in nature. It has strong parallels to Christian *lectio divina* of Nature.

Paintner, Christine Valters, *Earth: Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*, Notre Dame, Sorin Books, 2020. Paintner introduces the reader to a range of Christian meditative practices with nature. She encourages responses of poetry, art, journal writing, and dance.

Comparative Religious Spiritualities

Kinsley, David, *Ecology and Religion: Ecological Spirituality in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall, 1995. One of the best short books on the intersection of ecology and interfaith spirituality. This is used in teaching undergraduate courses on world religions.

Sponsel, Leslie E., *Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution*, Santa Barbara, Praeger Books, 2014. Sponsel is an environmental anthropologist.

Indigenous Human Rights and Spiritualities

Charleston, Steven, *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus*, New York, Morehouse Publishing, 2015. Charleston is a member of Choctaw Nation and is an Episcopal Bishop. He writes and understands Jesus from an indigenous context.

Estes, Nick, *Our History is the Future, Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline: The Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance*, Verso, New York, 2019. Estes is a member of the Lakota Nation and was a presenter for a [UCC Creation Justice Webinar](#).

Kimmerer, Robin Hall, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and Teaching of Plants*, Milkweed Publisher, 2013. Kimmerer is from Anishinaabe Nation and is an ethno-botanist. She teaches us about plants and the gift giving of the personal world of nature.

LaDuke, Winona, *To be a Water Protector The Rise of Indigo Slayers*, Nova Scotia, Fernwood Publishing, 2020. LaDuke shares stories from the Standing Rock and Pipeline 3 movements. She offers good analysis and displays an inspiring resilience and resistance in the fight for human and environmental rights.

Mitchell, Sherri, *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit: Sacred Change*, Berkeley, North Atlantic Books, 2018. Mitchell, a Penobscot tribal member, provides an entry into indigenous lifeways on nature.

Nixon, Rob, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2014. An excellent book on corporate and governmental exploitation of indigenous peoples of the Southern Hemisphere.

Environmental Racism

Bullard, Robert, ed., *Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*, Counterpoint, 2005.

Taylor, Dorceta, *Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility*, NYU Press, 2014.

Zimring, Carl, *Clean and White: A History of Environmental Racism in the United States*, New York, New York University Press, 2016.