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Ages 4 to 8, Grades P And Up
Juvenile Fiction / Holidays &
Celebrations
JUV017010

9 in H | 9 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

The Christmas Elephant

a Nativity Story

Maria Antonia, Laura Zarrin

Summary

Ellie thinks outside the box. She stands her ground and remains in her elephant costume even when her older sister-and director of this year's Christmas play-demands she change into a sheep costume. The theme of standing up for your own uniqueness sends a subtle message to children that they can fit in anywhere if they persevere and don't give in to peer pressure. Ellie's approach to standing her ground is entertaining and empowering. There is also a teaching moment for the bossy sister who comes to see that everything doesn't have to work out the way she planned in order to be wonderful. *The Christmas Elephant* is an ideal addition for family, preschool, elementary school, and community library Christmas picture book collections.

This unique holiday book is perfect for:

- Children ages 3-8
- Sharing the story of Christmas through a memorable narrative text and engaging, whimsical illustrations
- Christmas gifts, including stocking stuffers and church ministry outreach
- Inspiring discussion and dialogue with parents, grandparents, friends, and teachers Christmas celebrations, church ministry outreach, and Advent discussions
- Sparking age-appropriate conversations about Christmas, self-esteem, Jesus' birth, and helping others.

Contributor Bio

Maria Antonia has plenty of experience with the Annual Sunday School Christmas Play-sometimes performing, sometimes writing, sometimes directing. Although, not one of those plays has featured a Christmas Elephant! (At least not yet.) She is currently the Sunday School Superintendent at her church and has formerly taught at a Christian school in New York City. When not writing, she's busy taking photos of God's wonderful creation. She has lived in Sunny Spain, Busy New York City, and currently resides in the Great White North of Canada.

Laura Zarrin planned on becoming an archeologist, but realized she was much happier staying home drawing and watching TV. Luckily that worked out pretty well. Laura is the illustrator of the Wallace and Grace series by Heather Alexander and the Katie Woo's Neighborhood series by Fran Manushkin. Laura has illustrated over 30 books for children including board books, picture books, and chapter books, Highlights Hidden Pictures, and various educational projects. She's happiest writing and illustrating characters with subtle and not so subtle humor.

Quotes

In Maria Antonia's heartfelt Christmas story, Ellie just wants to be part of the Nativity play, but of course as an elephant, so what could go wrong? The perfect warm holiday tale in times of chaos and pressure to be perfect. Ellie's story of determination is a gentle reminder for us all to slow down and remember that in the eyes of Christ, we all belong. This tale could lead to a new generation of Nativity plays with all of God's creatures to remind us of Jesus' universal love. —**Donna Barba Higuera**, Newbery Medal and Pura Belpré Author Award Winner

The Christmas Elephant is a sweet story to remind us that God's love is big enough to love all of us, even the ones who feel like an elephant in the room. —**Emily Morrow**, creator of Really Very Crunchy

Just like an elephant, you won't soon forget this adorable Mary and Martha retelling with a Christmas twist! —**Amanada Rawson Hill**, author of *The Hope of Elephants*

This creative story about a determined girl wearing an elephant disguise at a Christmas play is not only sweet and funny but also a reminder that Christmas is all about Jesus. And Jesus loves everybody, even elephants. And, for sure, everybody will love this story. Get ready for giggles and AWWWS and many "Read it again!" —**Ana Siqueira**, author of *Abuela's Super Capa*

Illustrations





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No Greater Love

A Celebration of How High, How Deep, and How Wide God's Love is for His Children

Dominique Okonkwo, Lhaiza Morena

Summary

No Greater Love by Dominique Okonkwo is a faith-based children's book that tells a story of love and hope. With each page turn, children will be mesmerized by the rhyming narrative and beautifully illustrated scenes that bring to life the message of God's love being wide, high, deep, and long. A heartwarming and inspiring read, this book is the perfect tool to plant seeds of faith and guide children on the path to understanding just how much God loves them.

This read-aloud, rhyming book with colorful illustrations is perfect for:

- Sparking the imagination of young children ages 3-8
- Sharing the message of God's great love that is high and deep and wide
- Gift-giving during Valentine's Day, Easter, birthdays, baptisms, and seasons of church ministry outreach
- Inspiring faith-based and Biblical discussions with parents, grandparents, friends, and teachers
- Establishing Jesus as the provider of immense love outlined in Ephesians 3:18-19 and initiates age-appropriate conversation about God's unending, unconditional, and constant love

Contributor Bio

Dominique Okonkwo, an award-winning Haitian-American author and writing coach based in Miami, FL, draws inspiration from her family's adventures, shaping her devotion to creating exceptional and inspirational literature. Actively engaged in community events across Miami-Dade and West Palm Beach counties, Dominique's commitment to writing and service reflects her passion for making a positive impact.

Dominique is the proud recipient of awards from prestigious platforms such as Kirkus, Writer's Digest, and Readers' Favorite. These accolades stand as a testament to her exceptional storytelling and literary prowess. Her tireless dedication to storytelling serves as an inspiration, proving the transformative power of narratives in children's lives. Dominique has achieved extraordinary success through a successful self-publishing journey marked by determination and belief in her goals.

Currently residing in Miami, FL, Dominique continues to spread her message of hope and love through her writing, embodying the essence of an emerging voice in children's literature. For the latest releases and newsletters, visit DominiqueOkonkwo.com and join the conversation on social media @DOKWrites.

Lhaiza Morena Castro is a Brazilian artist who set out on a mission to represent black characters in children's books, helping young black readers love themselves, their hair and their skin. With her bold and energetic cartoon style, she is achieving that goal and then some. A rising star in Brazilian children's illustration, Lhaiza now has an enviable client list including brands that are household names across the country.

Quotes

No Greater Love immediately reminded me of Ephesians 3:17-18, which is an attempt for humanity to grasp just how wide and long and deep is the love of God for each of us. For me, this book embodies a biblical message that young readers will not only understand but also embrace! What a beautiful and necessary message to plant early on in childhood! —**Linsey Davis**, television broadcast journalist and bestselling children's author

The book is beautiful, from the illustrations to the story to the heart of the gorgeous young girl seeking answers about love and nature. I believe this book could awaken the curiosity of young children of all backgrounds and introduce them to the answers they have been searching for. Great job, Dominique. You are leading the way.

—**Marvin Winans Jr.**, Recording Artist and Lead Pastor of Perfecting Home Church

No Greater Love is a delightful celebration of God's love—the myriad ways He cares for us, comforts us, and ultimately changes us. With engaging lyricism and lively illustrations, it's sure to become a family favorite, a book you read together time and again. —**Elizabeth Laing Thompson**, author of many books for women and teens, including *When God Says, "Wait"*, *All the Feels*, and *All the Feels for Teens*

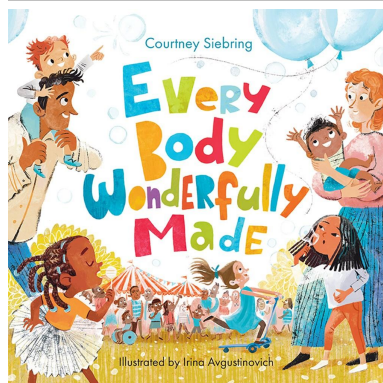
As a father, I love how Dominique opens up with a series of very innocent questions. This is exactly how my daughter innocently approached learning about God. She then turns the table and paints a vivid picture of God's love around us in everything, everywhere, all at once. She then seamlessly shifts into a call to action, showing children how they can participate in God's love. And the icing on the cake, ending it with Psalms 139. The art and beauty of this book is how it gently holds the reader's hand from beginning to end, with clarity and simplicity. Dominique nailed it again.

—**Anthony 'AJ' Joiner**, CEO and Founder of Blooksy

"As a mom, I understand the importance of teaching your children biblical principals at a young age and how imperative that is in helping your kids to better grasp details of the Christian faith. This book helps parents to do so in a practical way by not only describing the vastness of God's love, but also teaching little ones how to love others well using His example. This is a concept any and every child should know, and the way the author accomplishes this so successfully in her colorful and poetic words is beautiful." —**Kytia L'amour**, Author and Public Speaker

Illustrations





Every Body Wonderfully Made

God's Good Plan for Boys and Girls

Courtney Siebring, Irina Avgustinovich

Summary

Motivated by Psalm 139, this book tells of the incredible delight that each human is lovingly crafted by God, fearfully and wonderfully made. Through imaginative illustrations, lovable characters, and playful language, children can celebrate the wonderful miracle of their bodies. *Every Body Wonderfully Made* speaks directly to each child about their worth, purpose, and uniqueness in the eyes of the Creator. Every child has amazing opportunities to experience life, creation, beauty, and love.

Every Body Wonderfully Made encourages children ages 3 to 10 in their identity—boy or girl—from a biblical point of view. Paired with rich, colorful illustrations that assist early readers in understanding sophisticated concepts, *Every Body Wonderfully Made* teaches children about the goodness of their loving heavenly Father, who created them on purpose with purpose in their beautiful bodies.

Every Body Wonderfully Made:

- Is the perfect book for boys and girls ages 3-10 to learn about just how much they are worth in the eyes of God.
- Makes a wonderful gift for baby showers, birthdays, and elementary/preschool graduations.
- Provides parents, grandparents, and caregivers a wonderful narrative to help explain the dignity, worth, and beauty of each child from a God-centered perspective.
- Is a valuable resource for homeschooling families, librarians, children's ministers, Sunday school teachers, and Christian school educators.

Every Body Wonderfully Made lovingly cups each child's chin, looks deeply into their eyes, and says, "You were made **on** purpose **with** purpose." *Every Body* affirms to children's hearts that their bodies—male or female—are inextricably linked to their personhood. How good! We are God's workmanship, and God doesn't make mistakes.
-Courtney Siebring, Author

Contributor Bio

Courtney Siebring is a creative artist currently living in Colorado Springs, CO, with her husband and daughter. Her devotion to Christ, background in theatre making, current work as a voiceover artist, and long time practice of writing poetry informs the way she sees and interacts with the world. Her children's book, *Little Spark of Life*, is fueled by her passion for the unborn and their mamas as well as her experience as a foster and adoptive parent.

Quotes

Illustrations



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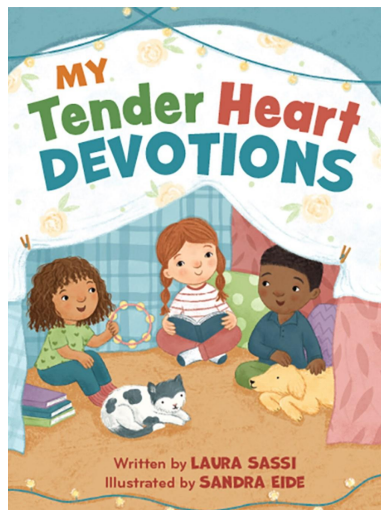
Ages 4 to 8, Grades P And Up

Juvenile Fiction / Social Themes

JUV039140

9.3 in H | 9.3 in W

Status: **FORTHCOMING**



My Tender Heart Devotions (Part of the "My Tender Heart" Series)

Laura Sassi, Sandra Eide

Summary

My Tender Heart Devotions offers 52 age-appropriate meditations for toddlers and preschoolers, including Bible verses and prayer. Using concrete, everyday experiences or objects that little ones can relate to, each weekly reflection is easy to understand and prompts conversation about God's goodness and love. Written in catchy rhyme, an opening poem is followed by a short devotional that includes a Bible passage, a playful "Heart Moment" activity, and a prayer.

With short and sweet, well-written text and whimsical illustrations, this devotional will become a beloved part of any morning or bedtime routine. Beginner readers will enjoy using items from around home or thinking about daily activities when it comes to God's Word. Simple yet uplifting Biblical application shines through every "Heart Moment" for parents or other caregivers to share and ponder. Scripture references for further reading are noted throughout and encourage regular Bible reading. With a note from the author and tips on how to help young readers begin daily devotions, every household or classroom will learn and grow in their relationship with God while using *My Tender Heart Devotions*.

My Tender Heart Devotions:

- Contains 52 easy-to-read, easy-to-understand devotions for younger children ages 0-6
- Offers colorful and vivid illustrations that can hold the attention of busy toddlers and active preschoolers
- Includes rhyming verses for memorization and improved reading comprehension
- Provides an active response for young children to interact with for improved understanding and life application
- Is perfect for use at home, church, or classroom
- Can be a wonderful morning or bedtime reading option for your family
- Has detailed artwork that allows little ones to find things for "point and learn" discovery
- Serves as a base for teaching prayer and talking to God
- Is the perfect size for small hands and short attention spans
- Makes a great gift for many occasions including baby shower, christening, baptism, baby dedication, new grandchild, curious toddlers, and boys and girls ages 0 to 6

Contributor Bio

Laura Sassi has a passion for telling stories in prose and rhyme. Her books with Paraclete Press include *Happy Birthday*, *Christmas Child*, *My Tender Heart Bible*, *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* and *My Tender Heart Devotions*, coming in 2024. In addition, she is the author of multiple books for young children including the best-selling *Goodnight*, *Ark*, *Love Is Kind*, *Diva Delores and the Opera House Mouse*, *Little Ewe*, and *Bunny Finds Easter*. She also writes stories and poems for various children's publications.

Laura had a fulfilling teaching career before becoming a children's author. She's been a homeschool mom, children's ministry director, historic museum interpreter, and more. She writes daily from her home in New Jersey and finds special joy in sharing messages of kindness, comfort, and faith through story at school visits, church gatherings, and other events.

Sandra Eide is a children's book illustrator from the Pacific Northwest. Sandra works with a mixture of real watercolors, textures, and digital mediums to create her illustrations. Her art is influenced by nature, culture, and the importance of showing all kinds of people in her work.

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Juvenile Nonfiction / Religious

JNF049120

Series: My Tender Heart

7 in H | 5.3 in W

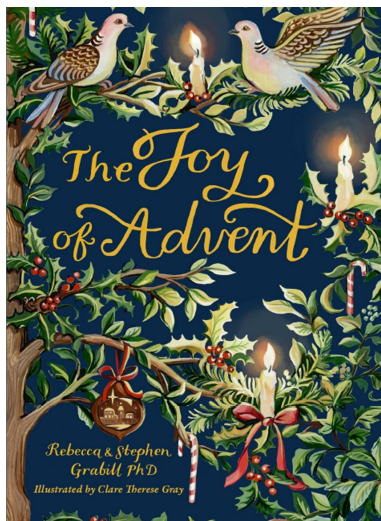
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Quotes

A well thought out, tenderly written devotional guide that captures the hearts of children while pointing them closer to God. Children will love getting to know our Heavenly Father through everyday items like rocket ships, fruit salads, and even “fluffy stuffies.” —**Christine Voegeli**, Director of Children’s Ministries at New Providence Presbyterian Church

Illustrations





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Grades P And Up
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The Joy of Advent

Family Celebrations for Advent & the Twelve Days of Christmas

Rebecca Grabill, Stephen Grabill, Clare Therese Gray

Summary

From Advent through Epiphany, daily Bible readings, reflections, songs, prayers, and activities for all ages provide a guided celebration that will infuse depth and delight throughout the Advent and Christmastide season. *The Joy of Advent* gives families the opportunity to come together and focus their hearts on the scarlet thread of Christmas-Christ's love and sacrifice-woven through the tapestry of Scripture, and utilizing the Jesse Tree, to create poignant memories and beloved traditions.

Readers will...

- Create meaningful traditions and activities that family members will enjoy year after year.
- Experience companionship through accessible readings and thoughtful reflections.
- Appreciate the amazing story of God's redemptive work in the world.
- Have every day moments transformed into lasting memories of rich spiritual significance.
- Extend the celebration of Christmas through the full Twelve Days of Christmas.

Features of *The Joy of Advent*:

- **PERFECT GIFT** for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany celebrations
- **TIMELESSLY CLASSIC PACKAGING**: With a beautifully ageless, full-color, holiday design, this family activity book is perfect for decorating a coffee table or bookshelf, and the sturdy hardcover package ensures durability.
- **DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS**: This book includes family devotions and reflection questions for different age levels, and activities the whole family can enjoy together.

Contributor Bio

Rebecca Grabill is mother of six and award-winning author of children's books *Halloween Good Night* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers), *Violet and the Woof* (Katherine Tegan Books/HarperCollins), and *A Year With Mama Earth* (Eerdman's Books for Young Readers), as well as the poetry collection, *Sweetened Condensed* (Flying Ketchup Press), and essays on global platforms such as *ScaryMommy.com*. She holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University and a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Calvin University. She is also an awardee of the Sustainable Arts Foundation. She lives in rural Michigan with her husband and children, and balances homeschooling with writing and commercial photography.

Stephen J. Grabill, Ph.D., theological consultant on this project (and conveniently Rebecca's husband), is general editor of the NIV Stewardship Study Bible (Zondervan, 2009) and co-author and executive producer of the film series *For the Life of the World*, which has sold more than 250,000 copies and reached 1.5 million viewers. He also has numerous academic titles to his name, teaches social ethics at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, and has 20 years experience as a senior research theologian, author, and speaker. Currently he is Director of Moja University and co-founder of the IT startup, Moja Market LLC, which will bring e-commerce and education to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Clare Gray is the author, illustrator and pattern designer behind popular Instagram account @claretheresegray. She creates artworks for textiles, paper craft and fabric collections, packaging and homewares. Inspired by the natural environment of her rural Hampshire surroundings, she lives and works on a farm with her husband and young family. After studying Painting at Art School in Norwich she went on to the Drawing Year at the Royal Drawing School where she focused on imaginative and

observational drawing & printmaking before launching a freelance design career.

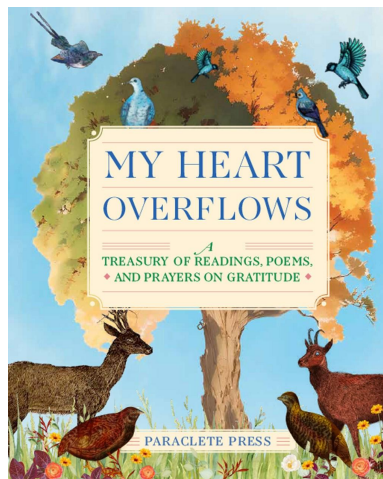
Aside from bespoke artworks, she takes on project-based collaborations with like-minded companies. Clare's design experience spans a range of clients and sectors from textiles to craft collections, homewares to book illustration. She is the author of two books, 'Woodland Watercolor: A Colouring Workbook' and 'Painting Nature with Clare: Create Beautiful Gouache Motifs of the Garden, Countryside, Sea, River and Forest' published with Page Street Publishing. She has illustrated the children's picture books, 'The Agnes Series' published with DK. Her patterns can be found around the world on children's and women's apparel, luxury toiletries, stationery, ceramics and decorative objects.

She has a passion for lino printing on paper and fabric, and loves spending time in galleries drawing ceramics and paintings. Otherwise she can often be found enjoying the English countryside with her family, growing and collecting flowers to dry and, of course, drawing and painting every single day.

Quotes

"*The Joy of Advent* is a beautiful and rich resource. I celebrate that families will be able to create Christmas traditions that join their worship with that of the saints of old. Even though I struggle to remember the church calendar, I long for rhythms and traditions that will place me inside God's redemptive story. I'm delighted that this volume will lead families in lifelong faith formation together." —**Geoffrey Hsu**, Executive Director, Shepherd Flourish San Diego

Illustrations



My Heart Overflows

A Treasury of Readings, Poems, and Prayers on Gratitude

Editors at Paraclete Press

Summary

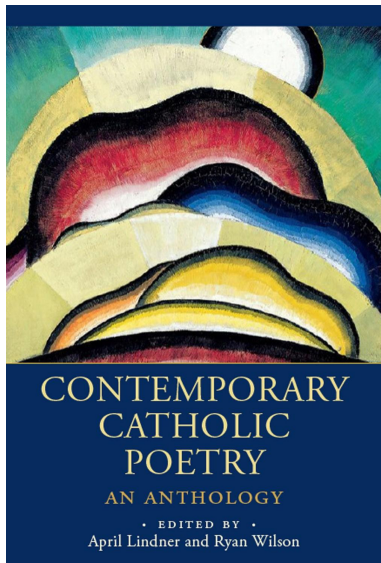
My Heart Overflows is a treasury of cherished writings that warm the heart with gratitude and draw the soul towards Love. This book beautifully presents a diverse repertoire of classical and contemporary voices, paired with reproductions of beloved works of art. From the immortal words of Hopkins, Chesterton, Dickinson, and Alcott, to the more recent contributions of Mother Teresa, Angelou, and Sandburg, this timeless collection is for everyone. May these poems, prayers, and prose inspire you to lift up your mind and heart in gratitude.



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Contemporary Catholic Poetry

An Anthology

April Lindner, Ryan Wilson

Summary

Editors Ryan Wilson and April Lindner have collected the work of Catholic poets born in 1950 and afterward. Featuring diverse styles, aesthetics, and forms, this selection demonstrates "the myriad ways the Church has left its mark on the imaginations of these notable contemporary poets." A treasury of vibrant beauty—this collection explores the personal, practical, and political, of faith, nature, life, and lament—a welcome gift to all lovers of poetry and language.

"Poems represent the world and the people who inhabit it: they introduce us to plants, animals, human characters, and highly specific places. They show us striking images that may be familiar to us or entirely eldritch, tell us about experiences that might be akin to our own or quite different from our own. They delight us, seduce us, inspire us, instruct us, mock us, condemn us, console us, and mourn us. They challenge us, protest against us, and, sometimes, they baffle us. They celebrate the glories of the created world and its people, and they commemorate momentous occasions; they also curse the cruelty and the horror of the world and its people, and they lament catastrophes. They imagine other people's lives and other worlds. They invoke deities and absences. They also speak intimately of heartfelt truths, describe local haunts, and address ordinary people directly. They meditate on living, on dying, and on the passage of time. They tell us stories, they tell us lies, and they tell us stories that reveal the truth through lying, to paraphrase the great painter Pablo Picasso. They enchant us with beauty and appall us with terror. Above all, poems remember. Each poem is, on a fundamental level, an act of remembrance, a kind of handprint pressed against the wall of Time."—from the Preface of *Contemporary Catholic Poetry*

Contributor Bio

April Lindner was raised in the suburbs near Long Island's south shore. When she was in her early teens, the family moved to New Hampshire, and she graduated from the University of New Hampshire, where she studied under the poets Charles Simic and Mekeel McBride. After graduation, Lindner worked as an Editor for Clinical Affairs at Boston University Medical Center before moving back to New York, where she earned an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. After completing this degree, Lindner worked as an Editorial assistant at Cambridge University Press, taught English at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, and spent time as a stay-at-home mother. In 1998 she graduated with a PhD in English from the University of Cincinnati.

Lindner is the author of two collections of poetry. *Skin* (2002) won the prestigious Walt McDonald First Book Prize, and *This Bed Our Bodies Shaped* (2012) was runner-up for the Able Muse Book Prize. Her poems, described by Denise Duhamel as "tender and fierce, startling in their excavations," frequently address the submerged tensions and joys of domestic life. Subtle in both its vision and its musicality, her poetry explores childhood, erotic desire, motherhood, and religious experience with equal aplomb. Quietly epiphanic, Lindner's best poems offer, as Thomas Lux writes, "collisions between vulnerability and unflinching looks at our human condition, its truths and contradictions." Lindner also writes young adult fiction. Her three young adult novels—*Jane*, *Catherine*, and *Love, Lucy*—are retellings of classic British novels, *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *A Room with a View*, respectively. She has edited and co-edited several poetry anthologies, including *Contemporary American Poetry*, co-edited with R. S. Gwynn, and *Líneas conectadas*, a bilingual anthology of contemporary American poets translated into Spanish for a Mexican audience. Currently, Lindner is a professor at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia's Jesuit university. On a school-sponsored Ignatian Pilgrimage to Northern Spain and Rome, Lindner was moved to return to the Catholic faith of her early childhood, and subsequently enrolled in an RCIA program, getting confirmed at age 48. The mother of



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two adult sons, Lindner lives in Stockton, New Jersey, with her husband and three rescue dogs.

Ryan Wilson was born in 1982 in Griffin, Georgia, and raised in nearby Macon. He is the author of *The Stranger World* (Measure Press, 2017), winner of The Donald Justice Poetry Prize, of *How to Think Like a Poet* (Wiseblood, 2019), which was awarded the Jacques Maritain Prize by the Catholic journal *Dappled Things*, of *Proteus Bound: Selected Translations, 2008-2020* (Franciscan University Press, 2021), and of the forthcoming *In Ghostlight: Poems* (Southern Messenger Poets, LSU, 2024). Wilson's poems have appeared in several anthologies, including *Best American Poetry* and *Christian Poetry in America Since 1940*, and his work has been published widely in periodicals such as *32 Poems*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *First Things*, *Five Points*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Image*, *Literary Imagination*, *The New Criterion*, *The Sewanee Review*, and *The Yale Review*. He teaches at The Catholic University of America and in the M.F.A. program at The University of St. Thomas-Houston.

Aside from his literary endeavors, Wilson enjoys athletics (especially baseball, basketball, and hiking), old films, music, and the theater. Happiest outdoors among the woodlands and farmlands, he lives in Carroll County, Maryland.

Quotes

Bravo! This is a remarkable introduction not only to contemporary Catholic poetry, but to poetry in general. The poems are carefully chosen, consistently powerful, and truly catholic in their range. The introductions are engaging and useful. Rare is the book that's ideal as either a gift or a textbook. This one is.

—**Mike Aquilina**, chairman of the board, International Poetry Forum, and author of *Rhymes' Reasons*

What an extraordinary collection of poets have been brought together here by April Lindner and Ryan Wilson in this profoundly moving panoply of twenty-three American voices covering the past five decades, each in their way paying homage to the deep spiritual and existential concerns that haunt us all. Read it, friends, page by page, soak it all up and take in the music and pathos and beauty of what real poetry has to offer us.

—**Paul Mariani**, author of *Deaths and Transfigurations*, *The Mystery of It All*, and *All That Will be New*

This is the definitive anthology of contemporary Catholic poetry in America and an important contribution to American letters more broadly. While deserving celebration among Catholic readers, the poets represented here merit much broader recognition. The wonderful poems in this anthology will delight, challenge, and move anyone interested in poetry.

—**Lee Oser**, Professor of English, College of the Holy Cross; Immediate Past President, Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers

"Selective, startling, judiciously arranged—*Contemporary Catholic Poetry* is quite simply a gift to lovers of poetry, whatever their religious beliefs."

—**Micah Mattix**, Poetry Editor, *First Things*, Professor of English, Regent University, and Co-editor of *Christian Poetry in America Since 1940: An Anthology*

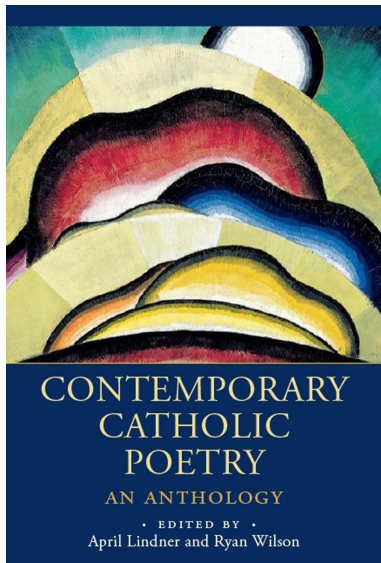
This anthology should be a standard assignment in every Catholic school in the English-speaking world. From Julia Alvarez and Dana Gioia to James Matthew Wilson and David Yezzi, we have the most superb verse by poets eager to speak of human affairs through a Catholic lens that takes in the full range of despair, doubt, joy, love, uncertainty, death, and faith. "I conjure the perfect Easter," one of them writes, "I am the Angel with the Broken Wing," says another, and "Nightly angst, ennui, and gloom / Refine the human need for some perfection," says still another. These are thoughts given in eloquent words that young Catholics should ingest throughout their high school

career. So, let's go, diocese superintendents: you now have a tool to make English a thoroughly Catholic experience. Use it.

—**Mark Baurelin**, editor at *First Things*, and author of *The Dumbest Generation Grows Up*

Rights World

Illustrations



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An Anthology

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Summary

Editors Ryan Wilson and April Lindner have collected the work of Catholic poets born in 1950 and afterward. Featuring diverse styles, aesthetics, and forms, this selection demonstrates "the myriad ways the Church has left its mark on the imaginations of these notable contemporary poets." A treasury of vibrant beauty—this collection explores the personal, practical, and political, of faith, nature, life, and lament—a welcome gift to all lovers of poetry and language.

"Poems represent the world and the people who inhabit it: they introduce us to plants, animals, human characters, and highly specific places. They show us striking images that may be familiar to us or entirely eldritch, tell us about experiences that might be akin to our own or quite different from our own. They delight us, seduce us, inspire us, instruct us, mock us, condemn us, console us, and mourn us. They challenge us, protest against us, and, sometimes, they baffle us. They celebrate the glories of the created world and its people, and they commemorate momentous occasions; they also curse the cruelty and the horror of the world and its people, and they lament catastrophes. They imagine other people's lives and other worlds. They invoke deities and absences. They also speak intimately of heartfelt truths, describe local haunts, and address ordinary people directly. They meditate on living, on dying, and on the passage of time. They tell us stories, they tell us lies, and they tell us stories that reveal the truth through lying, to paraphrase the great painter Pablo Picasso. They enchant us with beauty and appall us with terror. Above all, poems remember. Each poem is, on a fundamental level, an act of remembrance, a kind of handprint pressed against the wall of Time."—from the Preface of *Contemporary Catholic Poetry*

Quotes

Bravo! This is a remarkable introduction not only to contemporary Catholic poetry, but to poetry in general. The poems are carefully chosen, consistently powerful, and truly catholic in their range. The introductions are engaging and useful. Rare is the book that's ideal as either a gift or a textbook. This one is.

—**Mike Aquilina**, chairman of the board, International Poetry Forum, and author of *Rhymes' Reasons*

What an extraordinary collection of poets have been brought together here by April Lindner and Ryan Wilson in this profoundly moving panoply of twenty-three American voices covering the past five decades, each in their way paying homage to the deep spiritual and existential concerns that haunt us all. Read it, friends, page by page by page, soak it all up and take in the music and pathos and beauty of what real poetry has to offer us.

—**Paul Mariani**, author of *Deaths and Transfigurations*, *The Mystery of It All*, and *All That Will be New*

This is the definitive anthology of contemporary Catholic poetry in America and an important contribution to American letters more broadly. While deserving celebration among Catholic readers, the poets represented here merit much broader recognition. The wonderful poems in this anthology will delight, challenge, and move anyone interested in poetry.

—**Lee Oser**, Professor of English, College of the Holy Cross; Immediate Past President, Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers

"Selective, startling, judiciously arranged—*Contemporary Catholic Poetry* is quite simply a gift to lovers of poetry, whatever their religious beliefs."

—**Micah Mattix**, Poetry Editor, *First Things*, Professor of English, Regent University,



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POE003000

9 in H | 6 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

and Co-editor of *Christian Poetry in America Since 1940: An Anthology*

This anthology should be a standard assignment in every Catholic school in the English-speaking world. From Julia Alvarez and Dana Gioia to James Matthew Wilson and David Yezzi, we have the most superb verse by poets eager to speak of human affairs through a Catholic lens that takes in the full range of despair, doubt, joy, love, uncertainty, death, and faith. "I conjure the perfect Easter," one of them writes, "I am the Angel with the Broken Wing," says another, and "Nightly angst, ennui, and gloom / Refine the human need for some perfection," says still another. These are thoughts given in eloquent words that young Catholics should ingest throughout their high school career. So, let's go, diocese superintendents: you now have a tool to make English a thoroughly Catholic experience. Use it.

—**Mark Baurelin**, editor at *First Things*, and author of *The Dumbest Generation Grows Up*

Rights World

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Which Seeds Will Grow?

Poems

Andrew Calis

Summary

"And we hoped in spite of only dirt
For the green that could be anything."

Steeped in wonder, *Which Seeds Will Grow?* explores the past and the present, from ancient Jerusalem to Baltimore's gardens and alleys. The poems are patient, waiting for seasons to end, waiting for space to expand outward, and waiting for light to touch the earth. Despite the difficulty of waiting, readers will find hope in hopelessness and comfort in the contemplation of the world and its sacred mysteries.

From *Which Seeds Will Grow?*

Planting a Garden

Stealing clippings from neighbors' yards
And smiling as they grew their own blooms
In the safe and hidden rooms where we
Keep watch on them like they are our children.

Nothing grew. We knew this was
A possibility, had read
It sometimes takes two years,
And we hoped in spite of only dirt
For the green that could be anything.

Perhaps we dug too shallow or too close
To the shade, or stepped where we had already planted,
Either crushing roots or breaking their curled
First shoots before they broke the surface.

So when one survived, wove a green line
Of its own, thinly sprouting something unknowable, I ran
Inside and for a moment felt
What John must have felt
Leaving Peter, old and unsteadily running,
And running breathlessly
To tell everyone -
Everyone
What had happened
And how you wouldn't believe your eyes.

Contributor Bio

Andrew Calis is a Palestinian-American poet, teacher, and father. His book of poetry *Pilgrimages* (Wipf & Stock, 2020) was praised by James Matthew Wilson for having "the intensity of Hopkins" and for "layer[ing] light on light in hopes of helping us to see." His work has been published in *America*, *Dappled Things*, *St. Katherine Review*, *Presence*, and elsewhere, and his poem "Arab Men Don't Cry, My Father Says" was recently nominated as "Best of the Net." He teaches at Archbishop Spalding High School in Severn, Maryland.

Illustrations

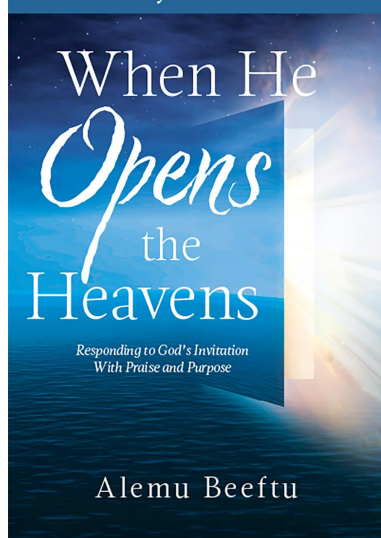


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Foreword by Chuck D. Pierce



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When He Opens the Heavens

Responding to God's Invitation with Praise and Purpose

Alemu Beeftu, Chuck D. Pierce

Summary

Do you long to lead a life of obedience led by God's purpose? This book is a compelling invitation to fervently seek and embrace your divine calling. Dr Alemu Beeftu offers a deep reflection on Biblical narratives that explore open heavens, open doors, open gates, and open hearts to encourage, empower, and educate the Body of Christ about prophetic destiny. With new revelation from Scripture, walk with God as He opens the heavens over your life.

Contributor Bio

Dr. Alemu Beeftu was born in Woliso area in 1954. Dr. Alemu Beeftu earned a BA from Biola University and master's and doctoral degrees in Curriculum Design and Community Development from Michigan State University. More than 37 years of practice in these and related fields have made him an accomplished and sought-after leadership trainer. He also continues to provide leadership worldwide for the Body of Christ for more than fifty years.

Dr. Alemu Beeftu, founder and president of Gospel of Glory, has a heart for training pastors, businessmen and politicians with a goal of building national leadership infrastructures. Dr. Beeftu presently concentrates on transformational leaders of various ages in more than 54 countries who have the calling, giftings, and character to foster sustainable societal change for the kingdom of God.

Dr. Beeftu's most recently authored books include: *Hosting His Presence, The King's Signet Ring, Rekindle The Altar Fire, Breakout For Breakthrough, Divine Pattern For the Fullness of His Glory, Restoration for Lasting Transformation, Igniting Leaders for Kingdom Impact, Wrestling for Your Prophetic Destiny, Put Your Heart Above Your Head, Restoring the Altar For Fresh Fire, Leadership Journey, Spiritual Accountability, and Leading for Kingdom Impact, Determination to Make a Difference* and more.

Dr. Beeftu and his wife, Genet, make their home in Highland Village, Texas with their children Keah and Amman.

Quotes

"Dr. Alemu Beeftu has an amazing ability to take a profound spiritual truth and make it easy to understand. He epitomizes what can occur through a mature blending of Christ's apostolic and teaching anointings. Alemu's personal story epitomizes God's grace, mercy, and supernatural ability. And his latest of more than 50 books, *When He Opens the Heavens*, epitomizes what a great book should do: change the reader. God wants to open the heavens over your life, home, family, business, city, and nation. This tremendous book will show you how." —**Dutch Sheets**, Founder and President of Dutch Sheets Ministries and author of *Intercessory Prayer*

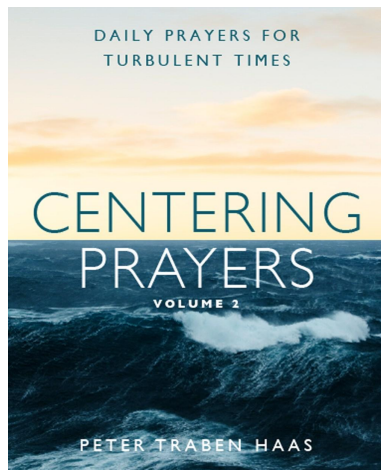
"Dr. Alemu Beeftu has written a kingdom book for the strange and uncertain times in which we now live. In *When He Opens the Heavens: Responding to God's Invitation with Praise and Purpose*, Alemu lays a clear path for you to build your life and destiny—a blueprint from Father God's heart. As you read, you will find yourself shedding off religious ideologies, philosophies, and bad theology that have held you in bondage. You have not picked up this book by accident. There is a strategy to your journey and your assignment. A solution is at hand. In the pages of this fantastic book, you will discover what you need to fulfill your assignment as a mighty Kingdom advancer. I am honored to endorse this much-needed manuscript. Don't just read this work. Study it! Embrace it! Practice it! Then, get ready for change." —**Dr. Greg Hood**, Th.D., President, Kingdom University, Apostolic Leader at Network of Five-Fold Ministers & Churches and Kingdom Life Ekklesia, Franklin, Tennessee; author of *The Gospel of the Kingdom*

"In his new book *When He Opens the Heavens*, Alemu Beeftu gives us a behind-the-scenes look into how God manipulates the heavens over us. It is a revelational, educational, and instructional masterpiece on how to discern the activity of God in our lives. This is a phenomenal book." —**Isaac Pitre**, II Kings Global Network

"Dr. Alemu Beeftu unlocks much-needed revelation and understanding of the concepts of what Scripture teaches about open heavens in this new book. By weaving wisdom and revelation out of the Scriptures, Dr. Beeftu provides solid Biblical teaching in regard to open heavens as related to people, places, opportunities, processes, purpose, and so much more. This book overflows with deep spiritual wisdom, revelation, knowledge, and understanding that promises to bring greater weight to our prayers and pursuit of God opening the heavens over us in our generation. Keep reading and expect to encounter the God who opens heavens as you do." —**Jacque Tyre**, Apostle, CityGate Atlanta

"In his book *When He Opens the Heavens*, Dr. Alemu Beeftu provides biblical foundation to help us to understand God's desire for humanity to access him. Recommend this book to all who desire not only to live under an open heaven but also to access God's presence in an incredible way." —**Dr. Venner Alston**, author of *Next Level Believers* and *Image Bearers*

Illustrations



Centering Prayers Volume 2

Daily Peace for Turbulent Times

Peter Traben Haas

Summary

Take refuge from the storms of life with this beautiful offering of meditative prayers, an accompanying resource to the first volume of Peter's prayers in *Centering Prayers: A One-Year Daily Companion for Going Deeper into the Love of God*. In this new volume, Traben Haas invites you to recenter yourself every day in God's presence and explore the loving connection he has with each of us. With a new poetic focus on themes of earth, water, and sky, these prayers will draw you closer to the heart of God and into the stillness of his perfect peace.

Contributor Bio

Rev. Dr. Peter Traben Haas is an ordained Teaching Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Peter earned a B.A. from Moody Bible, an M.Div. from Princeton Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His primary aim as a pastor and author is to strive to convey, interpret and apply biblical wisdom and truths so that readers and hearers are edified and nurtured on their journey deeper into Christlikeness.

Quotes

"To center in on what needs to be said—nothing more, nothing less—that's a rare art. That's what Peter Traben Haas offers us in his new volume of *Centering Prayers*. Highly recommended!" —**Brian D. McLaren**, author of *Do I Stay Christian?*

"Peter tells us, 'In the silence of the new year, I see the me is a We.' This is what happens when we sit with God. God becomes our partner in life. Allow these beautiful prayers to guide and settle you into the silence of your centering prayer sit." —**Rich Lewis**, author of *Sitting with God: A Journey to Your True Self Through Centering Prayer*

"A beautiful, honest and consoling book of prayers. Peter Traben Haas is a wise and compassionate guide."—**Douglas E. Christie**, PhD, Author of *The Blue Sapphire of the Mind: Notes for a Contemplative Ecology*.

"These prayers act as both a holy pause - a space to rest into when our own words seem to fail us - and a spark - a way of igniting our recommitment to be a loving presence in the world. Full of gratitude, humility, and devotion, Haas calls us back into communion with ourselves, with creation, and with the Holy One." —**Christine Valters Paintner**, PhD, online abbess of Abbey of the Arts and author of 20 books on spirituality and the contemplative life

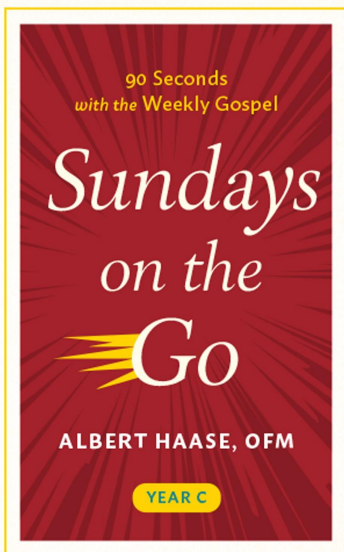
Illustrations



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Sundays on the Go Year C

90 Seconds with the Weekly Gospel

Albert Haase

Summary

Inspired by Fr. Albert Haase's early days in an eventful urban parish, *Sundays on the Go* is a gift to busy Catholics - just enough to keep you on track with Jesus, even when you're on the run! Fr. Albert's words will help you to prepare for Sunday Eucharist, and give you nuggets of spiritual wisdom and encouragement to last all week long. Enjoy Year C - the third in the series.

This third edition of *Sundays on the Go* features:

- A reading for every Sunday of the liturgical year C
- Handy Scriptural references to each Gospel passage
- A brief, direct, and pithy homily from Fr. Albert
- A reflection question and a prayer
- Special readings for Solemnities and Feasts throughout the year

Fr. Albert's words will help you to prepare for Sunday Eucharist, and stay in touch with the Gospel all week long. *Sundays on the Go Year C* is the perfect gift for busy Catholics of all ages - professionals, parents, students, and anyone who's short on time - in need of spiritual wisdom, encouragement, and a strong connection with the Gospel.

Contributor Bio

Albert Haase, OFM, is a popular Franciscan preacher, teacher, spiritual director, and guest on talk radio shows. A former missionary to mainland China, he is the award-winning author of thirteen books on popular spirituality, including *Catching Fire* *Becoming Flame*, and the presenter on five best-selling DVDs. He currently resides at San Miguel Friary in San Antonio, Texas.

Illustrations