

Paraclete Press  
9781640608399  
1640608397  
Pub Date: 2/7/2023  
On Sale Date: 2/7/2023  
Ship Date: 1/10/2023  
\$15.99  
Board Book

26 Pages  
Full color illustrations  
Ages 0 to 4, Grades P And Up  
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religion  
JNF049040  
Series: My Tender Heart  
7.3 in H | 5.8 in W | 0.6 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## My Tender Heart Bible (Part of the "My Tender Heart" Series)

Laura Sassi, Sandra Eide

### Summary

**With sweet, rhyming text and whimsical illustrations, *My Tender Heart Bible* features beloved and classic Bible stories for beginner readers.**

Bestselling author Laura Sassi pairs simple yet creative paraphrasing of Old and New Testament re-tellings with a "Heart Moment" for families to read aloud and pray. Scripture references are noted with each story that tell of God's redemption plan for even more exploration together! *My Tender Heart Bible*:

- Makes the Bible memorable and accessible for young readers
- Helps kids think deeper about what the Bible says about God's creation, His plan for humanity, and His love for all of people as His children
- Is perfect as bedtime reading for your toddlers and little ones, especially during the holiday season
- Offers details in the artwork for little ones to enjoy and find for "point and learn" discovery
- Serve as a base for introductory Bible discussion
- Includes an inviting cover and sturdy pages for little hands
- Makes a great gift for Easter, new baby, christening, baptism, baby showers, new grandchildren, curious toddlers, and boys and girls ages 0 to 4 years old

From Creation to Abraham to Moses and Jesus, God's story of redemption is told through each individual story and as a collection. Look in the mirror and thank God for making you unique—what makes you different from others you see in your neighborhood? Can you count the stars and make your hands twinkle? Flap your arms like the dove that appeared when John the Baptist baptized Jesus. How many coats and blankets can you spread out for Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem? Let's read the stories and celebrate God's perfect plan from the marvelous beginning of Creation through Easter's glorious hope made known by Jesus' resurrection.

**Learn more about *My Tender Heart Bible* and find free resources at [MyTenderHeartBooks.com](https://MyTenderHeartBooks.com).**

### Contributor Bio

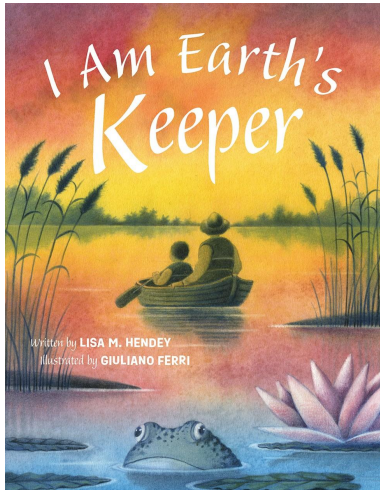
**Laura Sassi** has a passion for telling stories in prose and rhyme. She is the author of multiple books for young children including the best-selling *Goodnight, Ark*, which was a 2015 Christian Book Award Finalist; *Goodnight, Manger*; *Diva Delores and the Opera House Mouse*, which is a 2021-2022 Iowa Goldfinch Award Nominee; *Love Is Kind*, which was a 2020 Anna Dewdney Read Together Award Honor Book; *Little Ewe: The Story of One Lost Sheep*, *Bunny Finds Easter*, and *Happy Birthday, Christmas Child!*, her new counting board book.

Laura had a successful 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 pointing kids to God and to good through story and sharing her love of reading and writing 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







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Hardcover Paper over boards

32 Pages  
Full color illustrations  
Ages 2 to 8, Grades P to 3  
Juvenile Fiction / Religious  
JUV033080

11 in H | 8.5 in W | 0.8 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## I Am Earth's Keeper

Lisa M. Hendey, Giuliano Ferri

### Summary

**Embark on a whimsical journey to encounter and protect the majesty of Earth. With rhyming prose and a call to simple but impactful action, this book invites young readers to serve as caretakers for the natural world around them.**

With a gentle, rhyming story by bestselling author Lisa M. Hendey and artwork by award-winning Italian illustrator Giuliano Ferri, *I Am Earth's Keeper* describes one child's pre-dawn kayak ride that opens his eyes to the astonishingly beautiful world around him. Observing the rising sun, frogs, fish, birds, trees, and gentle breeze, he begins to marvel at the life all around, and to imagine how he can care for it. Inspired by St. Francis and his famous love song "Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon," this warmhearted book sparks the imagination of young readers to connect more deeply with God's creation and develop an ever-deepening sense of commitment to living in solidarity with nature. *I Am Earth's Keeper* offers:

- A warm, calming visual presentation with exquisite illustrations
- An empowering message that children are ready to act as stewards of the natural world
- An inspiring reminder to treasure the life all around us
- An ideal book for reading aloud at bedtime, story time, Sunday school, or in the classroom
- The perfect gift for children ages 3-8, for birthdays, Earth Day celebrations, summer gifts, and more

### Contributor Bio

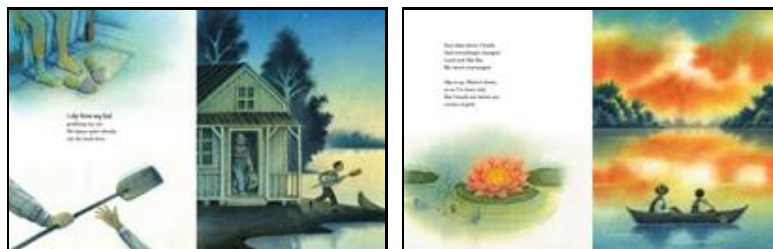
**Lisa M. Hendey** is the founder of CatholicMom.com and the bestselling author of *I'm A Saint in the Making*, among other books. She has journeyed around the globe to hear and share messages of hope and encouragement. Her [Chime Travelers](#) series for kids is read and studied worldwide in homes, schools, and churches. A frequent TV and radio guest, Lisa also hosts two podcasts and speaks internationally on faith, family, evangelization and technology topics. She has traveled worldwide with non-profits to support their humanitarian missions. Lisa and Greg Hendey worship and live their story in Los Angeles, CA.

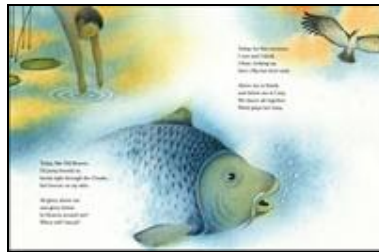
### Quotes

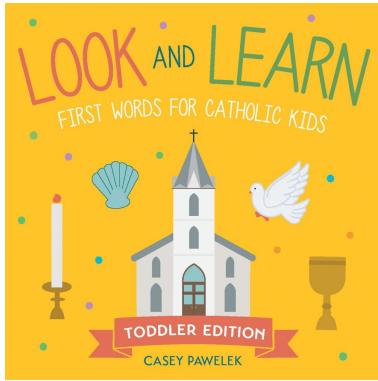
"This is a great read before an outing to encourage readers to take in the natural ecosystems and to integrate the relationships, big and small, among God's creation. The colorful art leads the journey as the story starts in the blue shadows before the sun rises and slowly bursts with colors and movement as the morning awakens."  
—**National Catholic Reporter**

"By empowering children ages three to eight to be caregivers of the earth, this book offers a great service." —**Spirituality and Practice**

### Illustrations







## Look and Learn – Toddler Edition

First Words for Catholic Kids

Casey Pawelek

### Summary

**This brightly illustrated look-and-learn board book helps toddlers discover and name the fascinating things that are part of the Catholic faith! Written to help engage her young child during church, *Look and Learn – Toddler Edition: First Words for Catholic Kids* board book by Casey Pawelek makes faith fun.**

Sit with your child and go on a “treasure hunt” to explore the colors, sights, and sounds of a typical parish church.

*Look and Learn – Toddler Edition: First Words for Catholic Kids* board book:

- Will hold a child’s interest with colorful illustrations that name people, places, and things
- Is the perfect book for young children ages 1-3 to bring to church!
- Sparks spiritual curiosity in young children and plants seeds for conversations with parents and teachers
- Invites children to experience the Catholic faith from a very early age as lively, fun, and engaging
- Makes a great gift for new babies, toddlers, new parents, and children’s ministry leaders

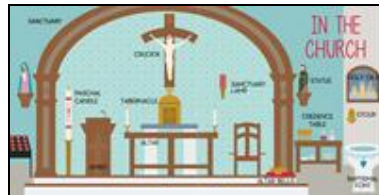
Paraclete Press  
9781640608542  
1640608540  
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Board Book

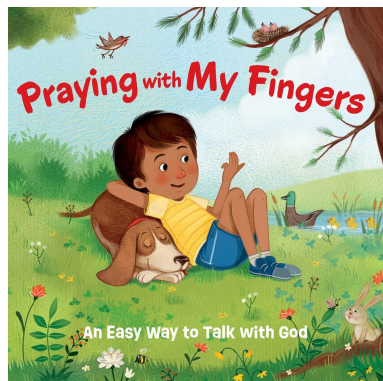
14 Pages  
Full color illustrations  
Ages 0 to 4, Grades P And Up  
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religious  
JNF049200  
7.3 in H | 7.3 in W | 0.4 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

### Contributor Bio

**Casey Pawelek** is a Catholic wife to her high school sweetheart and mama to three young kids. She lives in Texas.

### Illustrations





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\$10.99  
Board Book

18 Pages  
Full color illustrations  
Ages 0 to 5, Grades P to K  
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religion  
JNF049080  
6.3 in H | 6.3 in W | 0.4 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## Praying With My Fingers

An Easy Way to Talk With God

Paraclete Press, Alessia Girasole

### Summary

**Start your little ones off on their journey with God with this classic prayer using their five fingers — a simple and real way to pray!**

With gentle, rhyming text and engaging, colorful illustrations, this sturdy board book, *Praying With My Fingers: An Easy Way to Talk With God* offers a simple yet effective method for little ones and beginner readers to guide them through an easy-to-understand and easy-to-remember prayer routine. Simple yet uplifting Bible verses and prayer prompts bring young children and parents together to share and ponder.

#### *Praying With My Fingers:*

- Contains rhyming phrases for easy-to-learn, easy-to-understand prayer form
- Is a sturdy board book that can withstand repeated readings and usage at home, church, or classroom
- Is perfect for teaching prayer concepts to any toddlers and preschoolers
- Offers details in the artwork for little ones to enjoy and find for “point and learn” discovery
- Serves as a base for teaching prayer and talking to God
- Is the perfect size for little hands
- Makes a great gift for many occasions including birthdays, baptism, child dedication, new grandchild, curious toddlers, and boys and girls ages 0 to 4 years old

This creative form of prayer has been around for a long time! It is a powerful way to teach our children how to pray.

### Contributor Bio

**The Editors of Paraclete Press** are committed to offering inspirational texts to encourage readers on their spiritual journey.

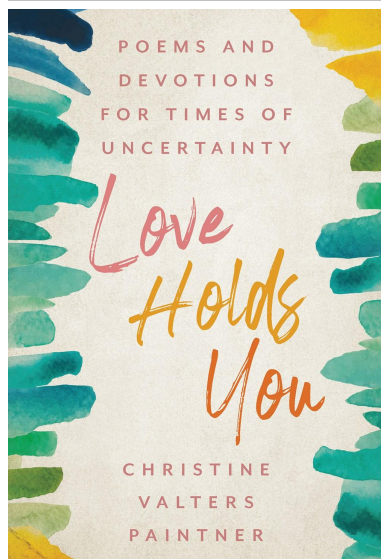
**Alessia Girasole** was born in Milan, Italy where she currently resides. She has been drawing since early childhood and realized early on that she would turn her hobby into a rewarding career as an illustrator. After graduating at the European Institute of Design in Milan, with a major in Illustration and Multimedia Animation, she decided to focus on illustrating for children. Nowadays, she spends most of her time with her two favorite and very close mates: her MAC and Neve, a faithful Labrador retriever.

### Illustrations









Iron Pen  
9781640607323  
1640607323  
Pub Date: 5/9/2023  
Ship Date: 4/18/2023  
\$21.99  
Trade Paperback

176 Pages  
full color illustrations  
Grades 13 And Up  
Poetry / Subjects & Themes  
POE003000  
7.8 in H | 5.3 in W | 0.5 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## Love Holds You

### Poems and Devotions for Times of Uncertainty

Christine Valters Paintner

#### Summary

***Love Holds You* is a collection of poetry and devotions from beloved author Christine Valters Paintner.**

Amid the daily grind, the pain and loss, the fears and doubts, you can lose sight of the firm bedrock of love beneath your feet. Christine weaves together reflections from her own life with her signature poems, encouraging you to find your own new path forward as you start to see the beauty and wonder all around you.

As Christine reflects on the moments and events that shaped her, she invites you to:

- Recognize the tangible expressions of love that can be found even in the midst of grief
- Reclaim hope and healing after times of turmoil
- Discover the strength that God gives you through the beauty of creation
- Nurture your inner poet, artist, and spiritual pilgrim

A compassionate and experienced retreat leader, Christine has cultivated a following of artists, poets, and spiritual seekers through her Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global community based in Ireland. *Love Holds You* is an excellent gift for friends during times of loss, life transition, or uncertainty, or simply a gift for yourself.

#### Contributor Bio

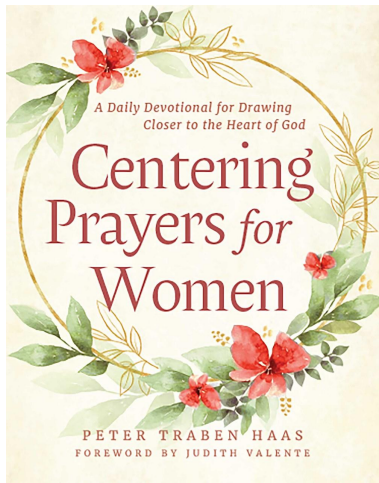
**Christine Valters Paintner, PhD, REACE** is the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global, ecumenical community integrating contemplative practice and creative expression. She leads online retreats and prayer services and hosts other wisdom teachers. Christine is a Benedictine oblate living on the west coast of Ireland with her husband John and is the author of numerous books on spirituality, monastic wisdom, creativity, poetry, and the arts.

#### Quotes

"A hymn to the soul's journey. Though the poet 'builds a bonfire from all the old maps,' she has drawn a new one here for the reader, charting a path through beauty and heartbreak to the realm beyond 'the country of certainty.' Each poem is a summons to reverence, be it in a hospital hallway, at a gravesite, or on a bed of 'moss and mulch.' This is as much a prayerbook as a poetry offering. May you find sanctuary among these pages, and a mirror for your soul." —**Kim Rosen**, author of *Saved by a Poem: The Transformative Power of Words*

"This is a wonderful, generous, gentle book. Read these poems slowly . . . let them permeate your day and make it richer . . . or read them—like me—in a rush of tears and smiles and gratitude to Christine Valters Paintner for reminding us that poetry allows us to soar above the world, to dig deep beneath it, and just to simply, profoundly be in it." —**Clare Shaw**, poet and author of *Flood, Straight Ahead*, and *Head On*

#### Illustrations



# Centering Prayers for Women

A Daily Devotional for Drawing Closer to the Heart of God

Peter Traben Haas, Judith Valente

## Summary

**Centering Prayers for Women is a collection of 365 daily prayers for moments of silence and meditation, in a beautiful new edition especially for women. In the midst of busyness and noise, and being pulled in many different directions, Centering Prayers for Women provides a moment of deep quiet, to draw closer to the love of God. The love, warmth, and peace that radiate from these brief daily prayers spring from the ancient Christian practice of contemplative prayer.**

*Centering Prayers for Women is:*

- A book of simple, gentle daily devotions to grow our awareness of God’s presence
- An invitation to find peace and stillness, to listen and just be
- Ideal for centering your mind and heart at the beginning of the day, or at bedtime, to calm anxiety
- An ideal gift for anyone who feels lost, doubting, or fearful, anxious, or needs reassurance of the intimate love of God
- A helpful tool for letting the noise of the world recede and entering a prayerful space
- Structured by the natural seasons of the year, and includes special prayers for holy days

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Trade Paperback

320 Pages  
Grades 12 And Up  
Religion / Christian Living  
REL012020

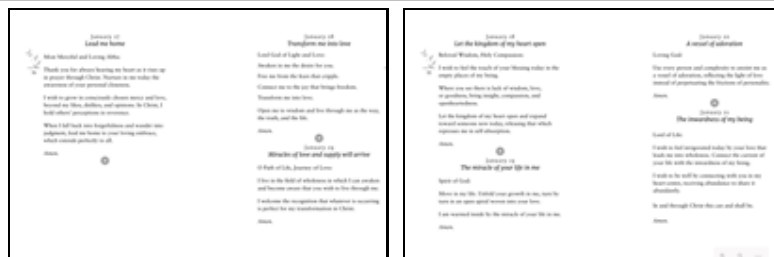
6.5 in H | 5.3 in W | 0.6 lb Wt  
Status:**ACTIVE**

Rooted in Scripture and timeless Christian wisdom, these open-hearted prayers are rich in imagery, helping us connect with God as Living Water, Source, Sustainer, Living Gate, Love, Wisdom, Beauty, Strength in Life, Abba, Eternal Listener, Grace-giver, God of Gentle Power, Beloved Source of Security, and more. Centering Prayers for Women is a perfect companion for a personal retreat, or to pray with others in community.

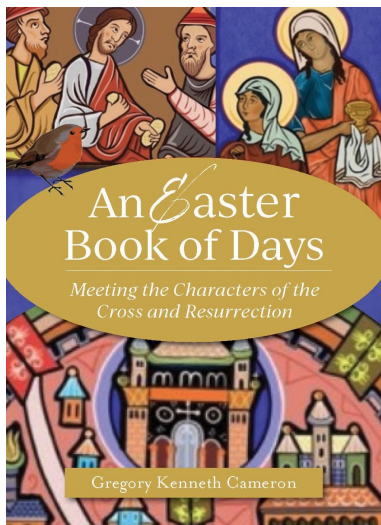
## Contributor Bio

**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.

## Illustrations







Paraclete Press  
9781640608573  
1640608575  
Pub Date: 1/10/2023  
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Ship Date: 12/20/2022  
\$18.99  
Trade Paperback

120 Pages  
Full color illustrations  
Grades 9 And Up  
Religion / Holidays  
REL034030

7 in H | 5 in W  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## An Easter Book of Days

### Meeting the Characters of the Cross and Resurrection

Gregory Kenneth Cameron

#### Summary

**A Lenten reader to awaken your spirit, and help you encounter anew the richly woven fabric of the story of Jesus's Passion. Twenty-five profound meditations accompanied by beautiful illustrations—like a medieval book of hours—draw you into the drama, divine grace, and power of the story of the Cross and Resurrection. Gregory Kenneth Cameron, the Anglican Bishop of St. Asaph in Wales, takes us to the heart of each character and location, transforming the familiar names and places with a new depth of insight and inspiration.**

As Gregory Kenneth Cameron opens up each character and mystery of Lent and Easter, he invites you to:

- Partake in twenty-five meditations in words and images
- Step into the tradition of *visio divina* inspired by the medieval tradition of the illuminated book of hours
- Learn from the scriptures, history, tradition, and faith about the character and place of the day
- Meet characters familiar and unfamiliar including Thomas, Lazarus, Martha & Mary, the foal who carried Jesus, Judas Iscariot, Annas & Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, Claudia Procula, Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica, Gestas & Dismas, Mary the Mother of the Lord, Longinus, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalen, John, Peter, and Jesus
- Visit the Cross of Jesus, Jerusalem, The Temple of Solomon, The Empty Tomb, and Emmaus
- Enter into a deeper personal relationship with the characters of the Passion, and be transformed as the earliest disciples were by Jesus's death and resurrection

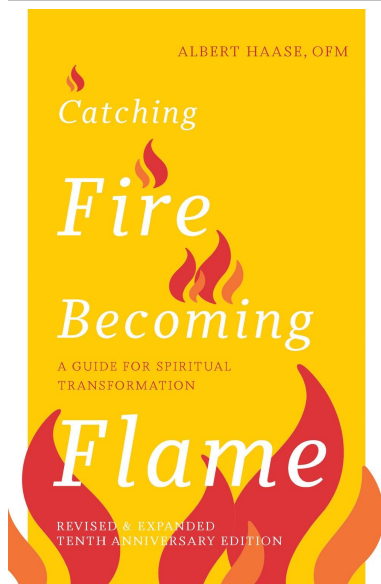
Filled with beautiful four-color illustrations, Gregory Kenneth Cameron's *Easter Book of Days* is the perfect book to provide you with the spiritual nourishment you need to walk through the forty days of Lent. Experience the love of Jesus in a new way this Lent and Easter through these profound sacred words and images.

#### Contributor Bio

**Gregory Kenneth Cameron** is the Anglican Bishop of St. Asaph in Wales. Gregory is married to Clare, a teacher of music, and they have three sons. He has a wide range of interests outside ministry and enjoys calligraphy, reading, and film—particularly science fiction. He has gained recognition as a coin designer in his spare time, creating three designs for the Royal Mint.

#### Quotes

"Captivating... Fascinating... Each reflection pulls the reader through a familiar scriptural image to a less familiar, or perhaps less obvious, realization and invitation. We encounter the invisible in the visible, the hidden and surprising grace shrouded in the figures and drama of Christ's Passion and Resurrection." —***The Living Church***



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320 Pages  
Grades 12 And Up  
Religion / Christian Living  
REL012120

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W | 0.7 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## **Catching Fire, Becoming Flame** *(New edition)*

**A Guide for Spiritual Transformation – Revised & Expanded Tenth Anniversary Edition**

Albert Haase

### **Summary**

**Fire up your spiritual journey with the revised and expanded edition of beloved spiritual director Albert Haase, OFM’s bestselling guide to a vibrant, fulfilling spiritual life!**

Ever wonder how some people become enthusiastic and on fire about their relationship with God? In thirty-eight power-packed, concise chapters, Albert Haase gives you the tools and kindling to prepare for the spark of God in your life – and then shows you how to fan it into flame until you are set ablaze. This book glows with time-tested wisdom as an experienced spiritual director shares the secrets of the saints. Feel cold? Or maybe just smoldering? With supplemental reading suggestions and reflection questions, this eminently practical book functions like a personal, spiritual retreat.

*Catching Fire, Becoming Flame – 10th Anniversary Edition: A Guide for Spiritual Transformation:*

- Features a new introduction, 5 brand new chapters, and thoroughly revised and updated content throughout the book.
- Gives you the practical tools and time-honored techniques to grow your relationship with God.
- Shows you how to respond to God’s fiery passion, how to engage it, and, most important, how to be changed by it.
- Features purposely short and concise chapters, allowing you ample time in one convenient sitting not only to read it, but also to reflect on its questions or practice the presented technique.

*Catching Fire, Becoming Flame* is designed to be a handy resource for expanding your knowledge and practice of ancient and contemporary spiritual practices. It will fuel your creativity and appreciation for myriad ways to fall in love with God—which, in the end, is what being on fire is all about.

### **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.



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272 Pages  
Grades 13 And Up  
Fiction / Christian  
FIC042100

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W | 0.7 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## Bastille Day

### A Novel

Greg Garrett

### Summary

**Veteran TV journalist Calvin Jones travels to Paris, where he negotiates love, friendship, and despair in award-winning novelist Greg Garrett's *Bastille Day*.**

With brilliant pacing and gorgeous prose, acclaimed novelist Greg Garrett tells the story of American TV journalist Calvin Jones, who travels to Paris to work with a producer friend he knows from their dark days covering the war in Iraq.

Cal Jones has had a quiet ten years, by design. After surviving the loss of two people he loved in the Iraq war, which he covered as a national correspondent, he fell apart and retreated to a local news job in Texas. Cal is still wrestling with those old demons when he goes to Paris to work with an old friend and encounters Nadia, a brilliant, lovely, and sad Saudi Muslim woman in Paris with plans to wed a Saudi sheikh in a family-arranged marriage.

Against his own better judgment, Cal falls for Nadia, even dragging her from the Seine when she attempts to solve her insoluble problem by taking her own life. He begins to risk a heart he thought was too badly broken to ever love again, and as the wedding ticks closer, to hope that perhaps Nadia can make a choice that includes him. Then their time rescuing each other is interrupted by the terror attack in Nice, which Cal is called out to cover. Back in that setting, Cal is thrown back into the memories of senseless violence and extremism that shattered him in Iraq—and that threaten to shatter him and his hopes now.

Garrett's characters wrestle with the ghosts of their pasts, as they long for love, friendship, and faith in the present. *Bastille Day* is a gloriously-affecting novel about how our histories can damage us, but hope can heal us.

### Contributor Bio

**Greg Garrett** is the author of five acclaimed novels (including *The Prodigal*, with the legendary Brennan Manning) and twenty nonfiction books on race, culture, politics, and faith. His novels have been translated into German, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese editions. Greg is an award-winning professor at Baylor University, where he holds the Carole McDaniel Hanks Chair in Literature and Culture, and spends part of each year in Paris, where he is Canon Theologian for the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Greg and his wife Jeanie live the rest of the year in Austin, Texas with their two daughters, Lily and Sophia.

### Quotes

Praise for Greg Garrett

"A remarkable novelist who has the courage to explore in classic terms the great theme of the human soul."

—Robert Olen Butler, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*

"Garrett writes with intelligence, with wit, with humor, with obvious affection for his characters, with an eye for salient detail."

—Elinor Lipman, author of *Good Riddance*

"Garrett creates characters who are whole and complex."

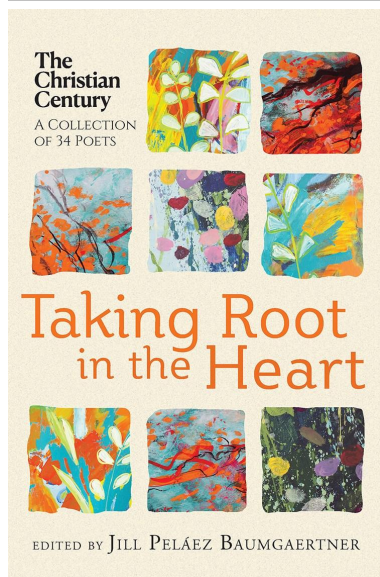
—*Library Journal*

"An astonishingly gifted writer."

—Dennis Covington, National Book Award Finalist for *Salvation on Sand Mountain*

Illustrations





Iron Pen  
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224 Pages  
Grades 13 And Up  
Poetry / Anthologies (multiple authors)  
POE001000  
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W | 0.6 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## Taking Root in the Heart

A Collection of Thirty-Four Poets from "The Christian Century"

Jill Peláez Baumgaertner

### Summary

**A new collection from the best and most prolific poets published in the *Christian Century* over the past twenty-five years.**

The 34 poets whose work appears defy the narcissistic tendencies of so much contemporary poetry. They do not necessarily express a particular orthodoxy, but they do connect with something larger than the self. Theirs is poetry that attempts to revitalize language, especially theological language. It is poetry that attempts to upset the usual modes of expression and offers up new angles of vision, especially in regard to biblical stories. For most of the poets—though not all by any means—Jesus is the Word made flesh, and the Incarnation is the paradigm as poets attempt to en flesh the abstract, make the spirit tangible, and put into words the unsayable. Poets have a way of taking on what utterly cannot be done. And those are the poems that should appear in a journal of religious news and reflection.

The poetic approaches and styles of the work of these poets are immensely varied, from the masterful narratives of Sydney Lea to the finely wrought lyrics of Charles Hughes to the always edgy and surprising poems of Bill Stadick to the most imagistic and prolific work of Luci Shaw to the provocative poems of Christian Wiman. Then there are the superb sonnets of Gracia Grindal and Angela Alaimo O'Donnell and the compelling explorations of the deep spirituality of the everyday that comprise Tania Runyan's vision.

The poems in the journal often explore biblical themes, doctrinal issues, or theological conundrums. But many of the poems that appear in the *Christian Century* present human experience or encounters with the natural world that do not seem on the surface "religious" but reveal a deep humanity at the core. What defines all of these poems is a commitment to communicating with readers seeking truth, beauty, and authenticity.

### Contributor Bio

**Jill Peláez Baumgaertner** received her BA and PhD from Emory University. She taught at Valparaiso University and joined the faculty of Wheaton College in 1980. She is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Finding Cuba*, an exploration of her Cuban ancestry, and *What Cannot Be Fixed*. She has also edited a collection of poetry, *Imago Dei: Poetry from Christianity and Literature*; written a textbook/anthology, *Poetry*; and published *Flannery O'Connor: A Proper Scaring*, still in print after thirty years. She was a Fulbright fellow to Spain, served as the poetry editor of *The Cresset* and *First Things* and currently serves as poetry editor of *The Christian Century*. She is also past president of the Conference on Christianity and Literature and is Professor Emerita of English and former Dean of Humanities and Theological Studies at Wheaton College. She has written libretti and lyrics for the music of Carl Schalk, Michael Costello, Richard Hillert, and Michael Gandolfi. She and her husband, Martin, a retired judge, live in Chicago.

### Quotes

"A scintillant, soul-searching garland of poems, where words continually probe and engage with the mystery of the Word. These are voices that you will find yourself coming back to again and again, language capable of encountering the beauty, joy, terror and consolations that are at the very heart of our Christ-haunted, homing existence." —**Paul Mariani**, author of *All That Will Be New: Poems* and *The Mystery of It All: The Vocation of Poetry in the Twilight of Modernity*

"Beginning with Jill Baumgaertner's insightful and informative Introduction, which includes a fascinating survey of Christian poetry since 1884, *Taking Root in the Heart* gathers richly varied poems by some of the major Christian poets of the past

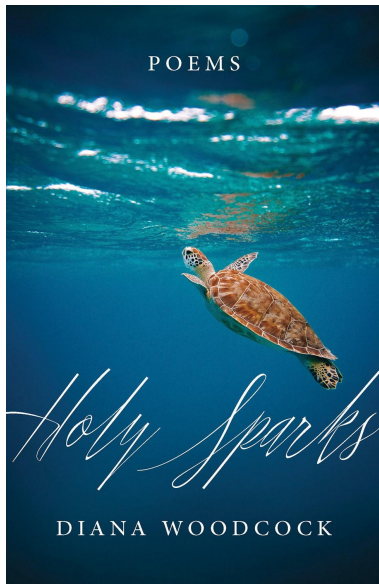


twenty-five years. As we'd expect, many of the poems reflect on Christian themes. But the delightful surprise is how many engage purely secular scenes or motifs, bringing in just a single 'mercy' or 'pray' or biblical allusion—with the effect of giving us the sense that everything in our lives is imbued with God's presence." —**Peggy Rosenthal**, author of *The Poets' Jesus*

"*Taking Root in the Heart* contains poems that place us, the readers, so firmly in concrete, daily experiences that we not only reflect upon, but feel God's presence—through the faces of children on a school bus or a letter from a death-row inmate or a conversation with a fellow airline passenger. The divine becomes palpable and immediate when we, along with the personae, watch birds in the backyard, examine an illuminated manuscript or attend a performance in a small 'parka-packed' storefront theatre. What a gift to have all these poets from the Christian Century together in one volume! Their poems sharpen our attention to the ways in which we encounter opportunities for grace in our everyday lives." —**Mary Ann B. Miller**, founding editor of *Presence* and professor of English, Caldwell University

"As anthologist, Dr. Baumgaertner is more gardener than florist, and this sumptuous harvest, a selection of exemplars, each in the context of generous registers and range of their poetic voices. *Thanks be*, is the thing I say, thanks be!" —**Thomas Lynch**, author of *Bone Rosary: New & Selected Poems*

"If there's such a thing as a fine arts gallery for poetry, this is it. Here are current voices, lost voices, voices new or beloved, all thoughtfully and lovingly arranged. Baumgaertner, as a curator, is well-familiar with her subjects, gifted with extraordinary sensitivity to their uniqueness. But it's her ear for how they speak to and through one another that makes this curation unforgettable." —**Sarah Arthur**, *Between Midnight and Dawn: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Lent, Holy Week, and Eastertide*



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## Holy Sparks

### Poems

Diana Woodcock

### Summary

*Holy Sparks* is a collection of poems grounded in a belief in the kinship between the cosmos and its Creator. Biophilic imagery is used throughout the poems to suggest that reverence for the earth is a natural consequence of reverence for God. The language of poetry is used to interconnect the human, natural and sacred, and to express humanity's moral and ethical responsibility to our nonhuman kin. These poems question what it means for humans to live in right relationship with earth's lifecosystems, and they suggest that our very identity is tied to our reverence for the natural world. They offer a space of confession, reparation and praise of what remains. *Holy Sparks* is a call to partake of Earth's wisdom so that we might participate in the Creator's ongoing work.

### Contributor Bio

**Diana Woodcock's** fourth poetry collection, *Facing Aridity*, was published in 2021 as the 2020 Prism Prize for Climate Literature finalist. Forthcoming in 2023 is *Holy Sparks* (2020 Paraclete Press Poetry Award finalist). Recipient of the 2011 Vernice Quebodeaux Pathways Poetry Prize for Women for *Swaying on the Elephant's Shoulders*, her work appears in *Best New Poets 2008* and has been nominated for *Best of the Net* and the *Pushcart Prize*. Currently teaching at VCUarts Qatar, she holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Lancaster University, where her research was an inquiry into poetry's role in the search for an environmental ethic.

### Quotes

"Orbiting our attention from Collared doves to the prophet Mohammad, and from communion wafers to Crab-plovers, Woodcock writes with a fiercely probing grace that affirms the genuine connections between the ecological and the spiritual. While asking often unanswerable questions, this collection shifts between the lightness of being and the 'still point of darkness' with precision and patience. This book is a deeply necessary addition to the eco-poetic landscape." —**Katy Abrams**, Editor, *Cold Mountain Review*

"Whatever underlies humanity's unique responsibility for creation—and we might be nuanced about that—the world is replete with wonders to behold and to protect, as we see in Diane Woodcock's markedly detailed eco-encompassing collection *Holy Sparks*. At times cataclysmic, yet valiantly hopeful, the poems are an urgent call to revere our God-given, God-infused yet oft-ravaged world. In language that is both tender and terrifying, Woodcock compels us into contemplation, ever insisting on the value of less over more, stillness over motion, generosity over grasp. In the darkest hour of our over-indulgence, the poet reminds us, to 'make time and space / ... / for mercy and grace.' And lastly, at the book's closing, we read: 'This is about... /doing the noble / liberating thing when / the moment arrives.' For Woodcock, that long-overdue moment for self-emptying veneration has come; it is our cliff-hanging present." —**Sofia M. Starnes**, author of *The Consequence of Moonlight: Poems*, and other works

"Nothing escapes exploitation in this world. No matter how much we speak up, it continues. In *Holy Sparks*, Woodcock draws our attention to the destruction. She points out, in the scope of things, why we are here. 'But I am torn, sworn / to do my part though my heart / is broken—all natural entities / suffering.' Isn't it time we take the world back to what it once was? End these atrocities of nature and people? These poems are a powerful reminder of our changing world and what we are facing. Questions are asked, but the answers would require change. It is evident how important this book is." —**Gloria Mindock**, Editor of Červená Barva Press, award-winning author of *Ash*

"These are poems that are luminous in seeing, and seeking, 'a miracle here,/ a miracle there,' refusing at the same time to look away from—or ignore—the shadowed violence that we, as a species, perpetrate toward the creatures who share this earthly home

with us. They remind us, with a prophet's fierce eye, that we belong to each other, that we hold our vulnerabilities in common since our fates are inextricably bound together. They also invite us, again and again, to 'keep all day before [us]/ the leitmotif of the unflinching/ faithful believer bowing to the infinite/ Maker and Keeper.' With this new collection, Diane Woodcock establishes herself as one of the voices our culture desperately needs—if we are to treasure the radiant if also fragile beauty that saturates this world, and measure what it might require of us to enter into living dialogue with all this. Only on this path of deep listening and attentive surrendering, she reminds us, will we find the courage to 'elude the deathly solitude,/ false images and disembodied/ of these times,/ instigating hope/ by writing the existent—/ my final act of resistance.' Despite the often gentle tone of these radiant poems, this is a manifesto calling us to live responsibly, and, while we do, learn to 'pray for a new day when we'll all be worthy/ of being created free.'" —**Mark S. Burrows**, poet and author, *The Wandering Radiance: Selected Poems of Hilde Domin*, and with Jon M. Sweeney, *Meister Eckhart's Book of Darkness and Light: Meditations on the Path of the Wayless Way*



## Or/And

### Poems

Jeannine Marie Pitas

### Summary

In his famed treatise *Either/Or*, Christian existentialist philosopher Søren Kierkegaard suggests that our basic human condition is one of choice and freedom. But what about when we struggle to discern the right path forward, when we stumble between contradictory desires, when we want everything? Such insatiability – which the ancient Greeks called *pleonexia* – leads to suffering and sorrow for ourselves and others, not to mention the earth we call home. But what about when “either/or” thinking becomes too rigid in its limits? What about those moments when we see scarcity instead of the many possibilities that abound, when fear keeps us from giving and receiving our full share?

This book of poetry is an exploration of those times when it is necessary to make either/or choices as well as other times when, even if only briefly, we are able to echo Richard Rohr in affirming, “Yes, And.” It is a story of stumbling in darkness and seeking light, of succumbing to sinfulness and facing consequences, of desiring deeply and bumping up against limits. It’s about addiction and recovery, justice and mercy, redemption found through friendship and community. It’s about seeking ways to open doors and tear down walls. Ultimately, it is about the divine grace that occasionally manages to expand our possibilities, transforming us into vessels of boundless compassion.

### Contributor Bio

**Jeannine Marie Pitas** is a teacher, writer, and Spanish-English literary translator from Buffalo, NY currently residing in Pittsburgh and teaching at St. Vincent College. She is the author of one previous collection of poems, *Things Seen and Unseen* (Mosaic Press, 2019) and the translator or co-translator of nine books by various Latin American poets. She is Spanish translation editor for *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry* and has contributed work to such publications as *National Catholic Reporter*, *US Catholic*, *The Christian Century*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* and *The Paris Review*. She has been a legal guardian to three young immigrants from Guatemala applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status in the US, and she believes firmly in the right of people to choose where they live.

### Quotes

“In uncommonly accomplished prose and verse, and with a remarkably audible, canny, and compelling voice, these poems perform the sort of surprises that feel like long-held, subconscious wisdom just now coming into our apprehension, just now, when we most need such wisdom.” —**Scott Cairns**, *Slow Pilgrim: The Collected Poems* and *Anaphora: New Poems*

“These poems do not equivocate desire and faith. Pitas has created a questing volume of dancing, blazing language to speak shibboleth.” —**Jon M. Sweeney**, coauthor, *Meister Eckhart’s Book of the Heart*

“Every page of this book confides brilliantly—through folklore, fantasy, reality—all sentiments possible, in words never imagined before. Or/And is a perfect title because the poems embody so many kinds of experiences: personal, social, magical—even those of crisis “or/and” loss –all brighten the room with flair and originality. Author Pitas teaches us to be new, to be unafraid, to transcend the limits of language. I say, ‘Now THIS is poetry! Thank you!’” —**Grace Cavalieri**, Maryland Poet Laureate

## Or/And POEMS

Jeannine Marie Pitas



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