

Paraclete Press
9781640607736
1640607730
Pub Date: 1/9/2024
On Sale Date: 1/9/2024
Ship Date: 12/5/2023
\$21.99
Hardcover Paper over boards

144 Pages
Carton Qty: 24
Grades 13 And Up
Religion / Christian Living
REL012020

9 in H | 7 in W | 1.3 lb Wt
Status: **ACTIVE**

Season of Beauty

A Lent and Easter Treasury of Readings, Poems, and Prayers

Editors at Paraclete Press

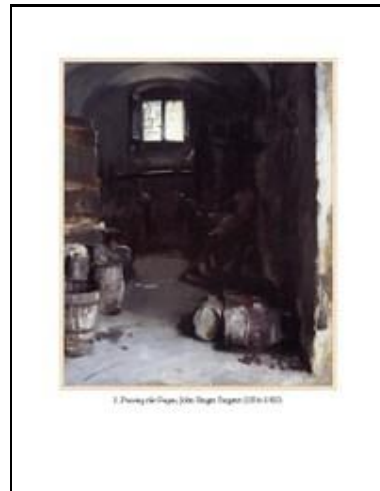
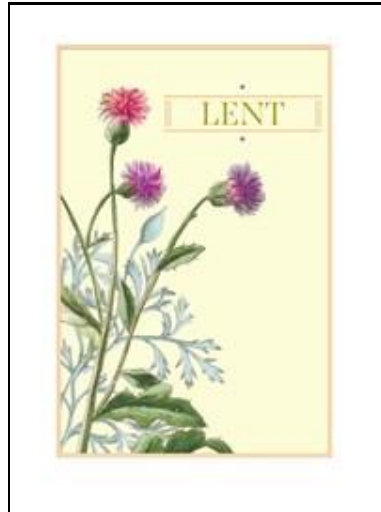
Summary

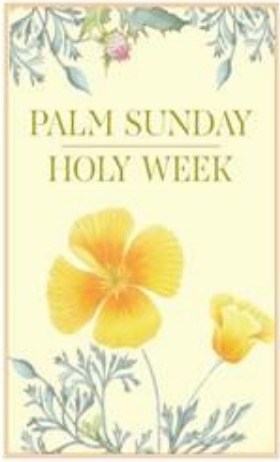
Experience the deep solemnity and joy of the sacred seasons of Lent and Easter

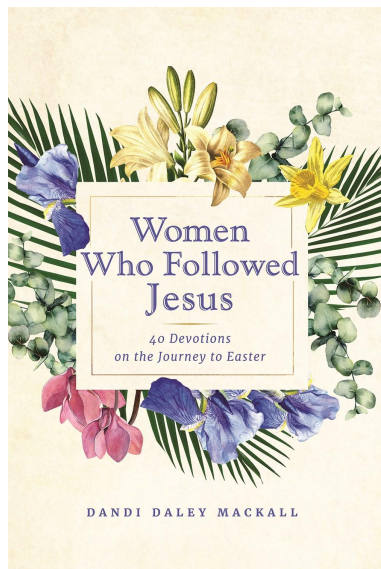
Each year Christians across the globe observe Lent and Easter, the holiest seasons of the church year. In this collection, the editors of Paraclete Press have gathered Scriptures and beloved writings by authors, poets, and saints, combined with reproductions of great works of Christian art. From the ancient words of the Bible, to works of Dostoyevsky, Louisa May Alcott, Henry Van Dyke, Oscar Wilde, Kierkegaard, and Gerard Manley Hopkins, to contemporary voices such as SAID, Scott Cairns, and Nikki Grimes, it is our prayer that these words and images will capture your heart, mind, and spirit, and help you to contemplate the love of Christ during these holy days of mystery and miracles.

"A gorgeously designed hardback with full-color glossy pages, this volume is indeed full of literary treasures for the spring seasons of the church year. Interspersed with the classic writings are color prints of artworks that are pertinent to this season." – **C. Christopher Smith** is the founding editor of *The Englewood Review of Books*.

Illustrations







Paraclete Press
9781640608511
1640608516
Pub Date: 1/30/2024
On Sale Date: 1/30/2024
Ship Date: 1/9/2024
\$21.99
Hardcover Paper over boards

256 Pages
Grades 13 And Up
Religion / Holidays
REL034030
8.3 in H | 5.6 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Women Who Followed Jesus

40 Devotions on the Journey to Easter

Dandi Daley Mackall

Summary

"Powerful daily encouragement that will enhance your walk with God." —**Jerry B. Jenkins**, writer of the *Left Behind* series and *The Chosen* novels

Look with fresh eyes toward the Bible stories you have heard all your life. Contemplate, ponder, and glory at Jesus' final days on earth, his heart-wrenching death, and marvelous resurrection alongside relatable women, chosen by God to play extraordinary roles through Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and beyond!

Women Who Followed Jesus honors ordinary women who were integral to declaring Christ as Messiah, serving as early church believers, and announcing Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. From Lent to Easter to Pentecost and beyond, these forty fresh and thought-provoking Bible-based devotions draw readers closer to the risen Savior while reminding individuals that God has a purpose for each of our lives. The struggles and joys of these women connect with everyday readers on topics such as patience, hope, faith, trust, persistence, sacrifice, grace, and love, addressing women's needs that cross generations and centuries.

The story of Jesus unfolds through the voices of Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, Salome, Mary and Martha of Bethany, the Samaritan woman at the well, and others, in forty devotions:

- Each reading begins with a passage of Scripture.
- Grounded in the biblical account, readers are challenged to imagine each woman's journey toward living with a risen Jesus.
- Poignant questions invite daily meditation and personal reflection at the end of each day's reading.

This biblical and research-based journey of the miraculous life, death, and resurrection of Jesus encourages readers to worship, grow, and submit to God's plans, offering hope to women no matter what stage of life they're in. The involvement of women in the work of Christ should be as commonly known as the story of his twelve disciples. *Women Who Followed Jesus* recognizes and honors the ordinary women God chose for his extraordinary purpose. Each of the daily entries offers greater appreciation of these important female voices.

This spring, contemplate, ponder, and learn by using this as your Bible study and listen as women of the Bible glorify God's Divine Son, Jesus the Risen King.

Learn more about *Women Who Followed Jesus* and find free resources at womenwhofollowedjesusbook.com

Contributor Bio

Dandi Daley Mackall is the award-winning author of over 450 books for children and adults. She visits countless schools, conducts writing assemblies and workshops across the United States, and presents keynote addresses at conferences and young author events. She is also a frequent guest on radio talk shows and pod casts, and has made dozens of appearances on TV. She has won several awards for her writing, including the Helen Keating Ott Award for Contributions to Children's Literature, the Edgar Award, and a two-time Mom's Choice Award winner. Dandi writes from rural Ohio, where she lives with her husband, Joe, their three children, and their horses, dogs, and cats.

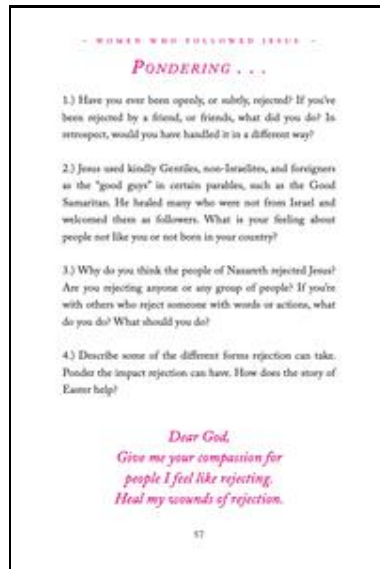
Quotes

"Another winner from Dandi Mackall who once again applies her lifetime of scholarship to craft a wholly accessible devotional. Using plausible imagining related to an octet of first century women, much like *The Chosen* TV series does, she offers powerful daily encouragement that will enhance your walk with God." —**Jerry B. Jenkins**, writer of the *Left Behind* series and *The Chosen* novels

"With her engaging storytelling, Dandi Daley Mackall beckons readers to step into the lives of women in Scripture who experienced personal moments with Jesus and left forever changed. Every chapter welcomes readers into God's presence to prayerfully ponder heart-sifting reflection questions and spirit-nourishing Bible verses. Through this unique journey to Easter, we can invite the Holy Spirit to do the beautiful work of illuminating Scripture and empowering us to embrace the abundant life of holiness and purpose available for all women who follow Jesus." —**Xochitl Dixon**, contributing writer for *Our Daily Bread* and *God Hears Her*, author of *What Color is God's Love?*, *Different Like Me*, and *Waiting for God: Trusting Daily in God's Plan and Pace*

"In this beautiful 40-day devotional, Mackall brings us close to the cross, revealing Jesus through the eyes of women who followed Him during His earthly ministry. Each day's reading is moving and meaningful. Highly recommended." —**Robin Lee Hatcher**, Christy Award-winning author of the *Legacy of Faith* series

Illustrations



Mary, Mother of Jesus Home

Word from Herod's palace has reached us that Elizabeth's son, John, is dead, beheaded by Herod at the whim of his wife. I have continued to grieve the passing of dear Elizabeth, and now for her son. Jesus believed no better man lived upon the earth. Now my son works even harder to carry the message of repentance and salvation to every village.

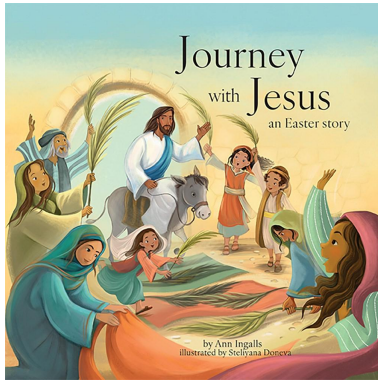
This day we shall reach Nazareth, my soul rejoices. I wake Magdalene and Salome when stars still poke through the sky. While Salome builds a fire from the night's smoldering logs, I empty the last of the lentils into a pan. "Magdalene, I would like you to sing, please." Though she knows my purpose, she begins with the eagerness of a child.

Early on the third day as we near the familiar hills of the south, Magdalene roots up and places a fat cucumber slice between my teeth. Its coolness soothes my dry lips and slakes my thirst. "Mary, you must be pleased to return home, yes?"

It is a deep longing. "I shall cook until even both Bartholomew and Philip are filled. Nazareth is a small village with just one synagogue, so you will be welcomed by the entire community."

Nathanael rushes past, snatching a cucumber slice from Magdalene's bowl. "Can any good thing come out of





Paraclete Press
9781640609051
1640609059
Pub Date: 1/30/2024
On Sale Date: 1/30/2024
Ship Date: 1/2/2024
\$12.99
Hardcover

24 Pages
Carton Qty: 50
Ages 4 to 8, Grades P to 3
Juvenile Nonfiction / Holidays &
Celebrations
JNF026020

8 in H | 8 in W
Status: **ACTIVE**

Journey With Jesus

an Easter Story

Ann Ingalls, Steliyana Doneva

Summary

Walk with Jesus through the special days of Holy Week — from the joy of Palm Sunday to the love and mystery of the Last Supper, from the sorrow of the Garden of Gethsemane to the triumph of the empty Garden Tomb, young readers are invited to journey with Jesus all the way to Easter, and experience His great love for each one of us.

This unique and unforgettable picture book uses rhyming text and colorful illustrations to tell children the story of Holy Week. From Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His last Passover Feast with His disciples, washing their feet and praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to Judas' betrayal, the trial in front of Pontius Pilate and Jesus' crucifixion, then celebrating Jesus' resurrection and victory over death, *Journey with Jesus* recounts the entire week in age-appropriate language children will understand and remember. Through the captivating illustrations and powerful words based on Scripture, the Easter story is captivating for early readers as told by "Teacher's Pick" author Ann Ingalls.

Young readers will be intrigued by the colorful artwork that depicts events leading up to resurrection Sunday and the promise of eternal life found that can only be found in God's beloved and only son, Jesus.

A sturdy, 8 inch by 8 inch hardcover, this unique holiday book is perfect for:

- Children ages 4-8
- Sharing the true story of Easter in memorable rhyming text
- Easter gifts, including basket stuffers and church ministry outreach

Inspiring discussion and dialogue with parents, grandparents, friends, and teachers

Learn more about *Journey with Jesus: an Easter Story* and find free resources at journeywithjesusbook.com.

Contributor Bio

Ann Ingalls passes the day exaggerating (writing fiction) or telling the truth (writing nonfiction). She has written over sixty books for young readers. *PENCIL: A STORY WITH A POINT!* made the Banks Street Best Books list of 2020. *J IS FOR JAZZ* won the 2015 Annual American Graphic Design Award and the Ella Fitzgerald Foundation's "A Book Just for Me!" *LITTLE PIANO GIRL* also won the Ella Fitzgerald Foundation's "A Book Just for Me!" She has received a handful of awards from the Highlights Foundation for poetry and short stories.

When given the choice between educating children or entertaining them with her writing, she chooses to do both. Ann lives in Kansas City with her husband, Winston. Please visit her at anningalls.com.

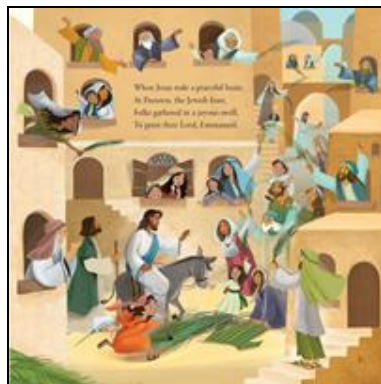
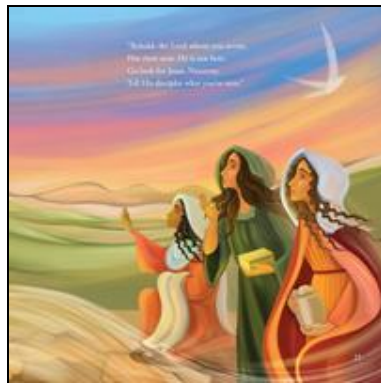
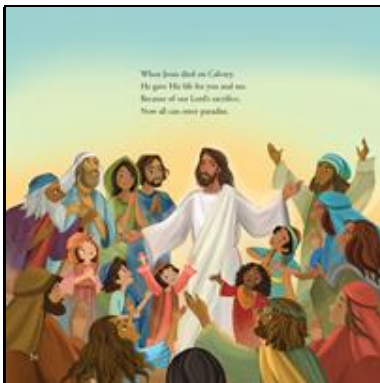
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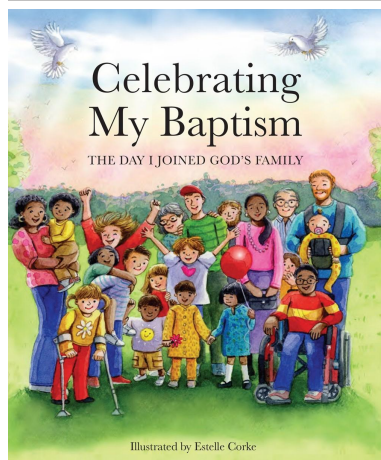
"Ann Ingalls has created a guide for even the youngest believers to walk with Jesus through his Passion and Resurrection, and to experience his great love for each one of us. I highly recommend *Journey with Jesus* to every family and Christian classroom seeking to provide their children with a meaningful Lent and Easter!" — **Father Charles N. Rowe**, Vicar General-Vicar for Clergy, Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph

"*Journey with Jesus* is a beautifully illustrated book for our youngest students. Once published, I will be sharing it with my preschool through second graders. The rhyming creates a flow to the book that is perfect for this age range and helps when broaching the sensitive topic of Jesus's crucifixion before the joyful news of His resurrection and the lasting impact on us. This story is so important—I guarantee that I won't be able to keep it on my shelves during the Lenten season." —**Amy Lutter**, Library Media Specialist

"From Jesus' triumphal entry on a donkey to His resurrection three days after giving His life on the cross, *Journey with Jesus* takes children through the entire Easter story in rhythmic, rhyming verse. Ann Ingalls captivates the reader's attention – children's and adults' – and tells the rich story of salvation. Beautiful illustrations accompany the words on each page. A must-have for the Easter season and should be read year-round." —**Julie Lavender**, author of *Children's Bible Stories for Bedtime*

Illustrations





Celebrating My Baptism

The Day I Joined God's Family

Paraclete Press, Estelle Corke

Summary

The perfect gift for any child being baptized, with prayers, hymns, scriptures and more to help joyfully welcome them into God's family!

This beautifully illustrated book with ribbon marker and presentation page includes timeless hymns, poems, prayers, Bible verses, and child-friendly explanations about baptism, the Holy Trinity, God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit, and more. As the perfect for any baby or child's special baptism or christening day, the entire family of God can celebrate with a child and their parents by giving this well-written, thoughtful keepsake at the start of any spiritual journey.

This sweet book will be treasured for years as it shares the knowledge of God's love as a starting point to faith and a warm welcome to the community of believers. With biblically sound text, this book does not need to be read straight through, yet every page points to the relevance of being part of a church family and how baptized people can enjoy peace and forgiveness every day.

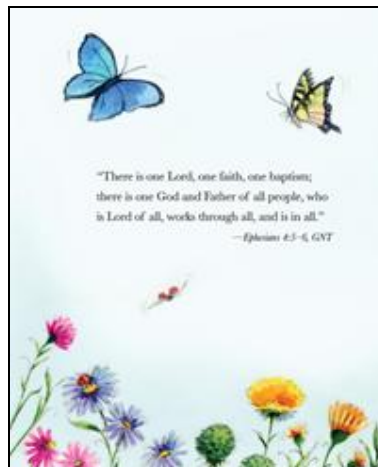
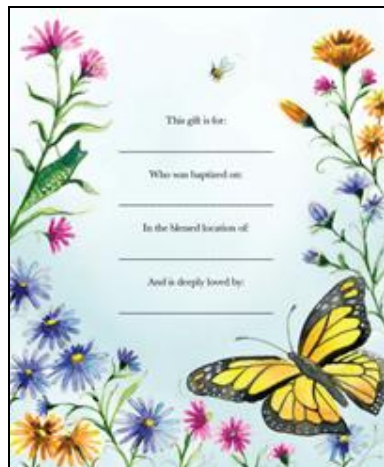
Celebrating My Baptism contains:

- Timeless favorites of the Christian faith including The Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, Jesus Loves Me, and more
- Child-friendly explanations of church terms such as baptism, the Holy Trinity, communion and more, appropriate for ages 0-8
- Bible verses that encourage faith development and memorization
- Easy-to-understand life application around the significance of baptism, the Bible, and the church family
- Bright and warm illustrations

A presentation page and a ribbon marker, 5.75 by 7 inches

Learn more about *Celebrating My Baptism* and find free resources at celebratingmybaptism.com

Illustrations

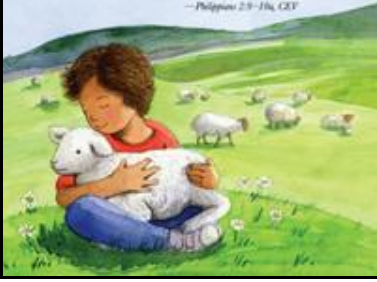


Paraclete Press
9781640609273
164060927X
Pub Date: 2/27/2024
On Sale Date: 2/27/2024
Ship Date: 1/30/2024
\$14.99
Hardcover with dust jacket

64 Pages
Ages 0 to 8, Grades P to 3
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religious
JNF049240
7 in H | 5.8 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down.

—Philippians 2:9–10a, CEV



Let God be the King of your heart. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and be forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

—based on Acts 2:38





Paraclete Press
9781640609082
1640609083
Pub Date: 3/26/2024
On Sale Date: 3/26/2024
Ship Date: 2/27/2024
\$18.99
Hardcover

32 Pages
Grades K to 4
Juvenile Fiction / Religious
JUV033200

8.5 in H | 11 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Growing God

Karen Kiefer, Kathy De Wit

Summary

Emma -- the little artist with a big dream from Karen Kiefer's bestselling *Drawing God* -- is back, a few years older, and looking for God in a whole new way.

When Emma returns home from spending school vacation on Nana's farm — a place where Nana says she “grows God” — Emma is inspired to try to grow God, too. Emma knows that she must be patient and believe, but she soon realizes that planting seeds and growing God is hard work! Join Emma as she cares for God's creation, and finds out how a seed of opportunity can grow into something amazing.

Learn more about *Growing God* and find free resources at growinggodbook.com.

Contributor Bio

Karen Kiefer is the Director of the Church in the 21st Century Center at Boston College. A catechist for over two decades, she has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the Communication Department at Boston College. Kiefer is the author of *Drawing God*, and lives near Boston with her husband, Sam, and their four daughters.

Kathy De Wit is an illustrator and art teacher in Belgium. Her work has appeared in many publications, exhibitions, storefronts, and books, including *Drawing God*. She lives in Flanders with her Peruvian husband and twin daughters.

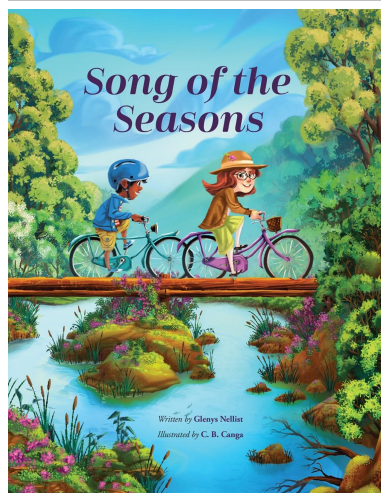
Quotes

“Like the parables of Jesus, *Growing God* invites children into the mystery of how God is made known in the world around us. With joyful simplicity, Karen Kiefer and Kathy De Wit introduce young readers to nature not only as something that needs our help and care, but as a place of sacred encounter.” —Laura Alary, author of *Here: The Dot We Call Home*, and many other books

“A children’s book that echoes Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.’s poem, “Trust in the Slow Work of God.” *Growing God* is growing in God and learning to find God in all things, no matter how big or small.” —Quang D. Tran, S.J., co-creator and co-host of the “Breakfast with God” children’s ministry program.

Illustrations





Paraclete Press
9781640608177
1640608176
Pub Date: 4/2/2024
On Sale Date: 4/2/2024
Ship Date: 3/5/2024
\$17.99
Hardcover

32 Pages
Full color illustrations
Ages 3 to 8, Grades P to 3
Juvenile Fiction / Religious
JUV033280

11 in H | 8.5 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Song of the Seasons

Glenys Nellist, C.B. Canga

Summary

From bestselling author Glenys Nellist comes a rhyming, whimsical, faith-building journey through the four seasons — for early readers who love nature and wonder and the beginnings of all things.

For spiritual parents, grandparents, teachers, and educators who are looking for a spectacular creation book, Glenys Nellist offers *Song of the Seasons*, a book that celebrates the magnificent and complex way God created Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall, highlighting the intricacies of nature and earth. Illustrator C.B. Canga brings the natural world to vibrant life with rich colors and poignant detail certain to engage young minds and imaginations.

Based on Psalm 98 and written in flowing rhyme, *Song of the Seasons* explores the idea that all nature sings praise to an Almighty Creator. As children wonder about creation, *Song of the Seasons* reveals the beauty found in every season: Summer, Spring, Autumn, and Winter. The reason for each season is to bring joy and reflect the many beautiful ways God has created the heavens and the earth. *Song of the Seasons* is the perfect book for discussing transition seasons, exploring how seasons are different, and learning how each season flows from one to another.

From budding leaves to blooming flowers, falling leaves to ice and snow, children see how every changing season points to a marvelous and mighty Creator. This joyous book filled with biblical truth celebrates all four seasons and is ideal for children ages 3-8. The easy-to-read text makes it a perfect addition to any bedtime routine. Whether you buy this for your family or gift it to another growing family, it is sure to delight all the little ones in your life as an excellent gift for any holiday, birthday, or baptism. This is a beautiful 8.5X11 hardcover.

Learn more about *Song of the Seasons* and find free resources at songoftheseasonsbook.com

Contributor Bio

Glenys Nellist was born and raised in a little village in northern England. The author of multiple children's books, including the bestselling *'Twas the Evening of Christmas*, *The Wonder That Is You*, and four popular series: *Love Letters from God*, *Snuggle Time*, *Good News* and *Little Mole*, her writing reflects a deep passion for helping children discover joy and hope in the world. Glenys lives in Michigan with her husband, David.

Quotes

"Another gorgeous story from Glenys Nellist. This time, Glenys masterfully draws us into the rhythm and rhymes of the seasons and how they speak (and sing!) of God's goodness and presence in this world." –**Caryn Rivadeneira**, author of the newly released *Frankinschool: The Cupsnake Escape* and *Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible*

"For many generations the Psalms have shaped our spiritual imaginations, immersing us in a world where trees clap their hands and stones shout in praise of their Maker. Inspired by Psalm 98, *Song of the Seasons* calls young readers to explore just such a world—one where every season has its own music and way of witnessing to the presence of God in the midst of change. Friendship and exploration are also woven into the vibrant illustrations of this gentle and reassuring hymn of praise." –**Laura Alary**, award-winning author of *Here: The Dot We Call Home* and many other books

"Psalm 98 begins by encouraging us to sing a new song to God. Through delightful rhymes and wonderful imagery, in word and picture, *Song of the Seasons* encourages us to listen deeply to the songs of God all around us in creation. Listening deeply, children and adults alike may also hear the song of God in their own hearts." —**Bishop David Alan Bard**, Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church

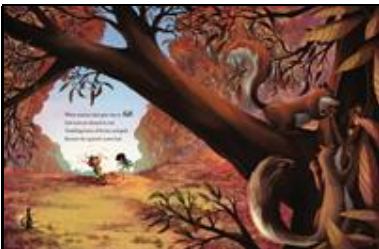
"The combination of Glenys Nellist's simple, elegant use of rhyme and illustrator C. B. Canga's whimsical illustrations and deft use of color make *Song of the Seasons* a truly special book. Children and their grownups are invited to "hear the seasons speak" and to remember that God made us, and we are good. What a lovely book...for any time of year!" —**Jennifer Grant**, author of *Maybe God Is Like That Too* and *What If I Can't Explain God?*

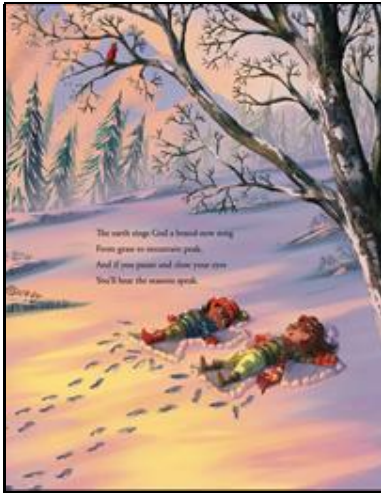
"*Song of the Seasons* is a playful and beautiful book with the overarching message that God is with us always. The colorful, lively illustrations bring the rhythmic verses to life on each page. This is a wonderful addition to a church or home library to showcase Psalm 98 in a child-friendly way." —**Rev. Kathy Pittenger**, Children's Initiatives Coordinator, Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

"I want my children to grow up knowing and believing God loves them no matter what. *Song of the Seasons* makes this message crystal clear in ways that both literal and metaphorical thinkers will appreciate. Written in the lovely lyrical style we've come to expect from Glenys Nellist, this book does not disappoint. Thank you, Glenys, for writing another book my family will treasure for years to come." —**Traci Smith**, author of the Faithful Families series

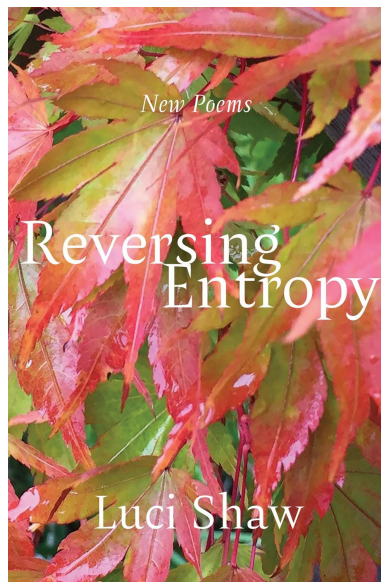
"*Song of the Seasons*" is a captivating book that beautifully celebrates the unique beauty of each season, reflecting the marvels of God's creation. Glenys Nellist skillfully captures nature's praises through poetic and action-filled verses inspired by Psalm 98. The colorful illustrations by C.B. Canga vividly animate the wonders of the natural world, captivating young readers and fostering a deep appreciation for the Earth's intricacies. Nellist's poetic writing and Canga's lively artwork blend seamlessly to create a moving portrayal of the seasons, making this book essential for those exploring the connection between nature and spirituality." —**Roger Hutchison**, author of *Sparrow's Prayer*

Illustrations





The earth sleeps. God's a brand-new song.
Faint grasses in meadows peek.
And if you listen and close your eyes
You'll hear the seasons speak.



Reversing Entropy

Poems

Luci Shaw

Summary

From the pen of beloved poet Luci Shaw comes a new collection that celebrates inspired creativity as an antidote to chaos.

The poet's own words best describe the heart of this pinnacle collection of new work by beloved writer Luci Shaw:

Entropy: A measure of the molecular disorder, or randomness, of a system, its lack of order or predictability, resulting in a gradual decline into disorder.

Our universe, and the systems within it, constantly shift from their created states of order towards disorder, or chaos. The second law of thermodynamics asserts that entropy, or disorder, always increases with time. Creative human activities such as art, architecture, music, story or film are human efforts to halt and reverse this loss of meaning. Thus, smaller systems, like individual poems, become highly ordered as they receive energy from outside themselves, from the poet. They reverse entropy because they are moving from a state of disorder (all the random ideas, words and phrases available to the writer) into an orderly form designed by the writer to create meaningful images and concepts in the reader's mind (which is where the word "imagination" comes from.) This transfer of images, concepts and ideas into the mind of a reader is the task of poetry and the calling of the poet. Just as a composer of music gathers rhythms, notes, melodies, or harmony, organizing them into fugues or sonatas or concertos, so poets work and write to discover ways of arranging their responses to the world in words that introduce meaning and beauty in the mind of the reader.

Which is what I've been trying to do for most of my life.

Contributor Bio

Luci Shaw was born in London, England, in 1928. A poet and essayist whose writing has appeared in numerous literary and religious journals, in 2013 she received the tenth annual Denise Levertov Award for Creative Writing from Seattle Pacific University. The author of over thirty-five books of poetry and creative non-fiction, since 1986 she has been Writer in Residence at Regent College, Vancouver. She lives with her husband, John Hoyte, in Bellingham, WA.

Quotes

In her newest collection, *Reversing Entropy*, Luci Shaw sings a "benediction/of beauty" where "[g]race comes in every/gather of green" and "contraries...join all the making/and remaking/within the fluid universe." Her rituals of observation and creation—be it hiking, knitting, photography, or writing—interweave the natural and spiritual. The darkened woods we stumble through lead to the lake, where "the moon's doubled/image drowns us in soft light." In these wise and wondrous poems, the poet ponders how to hold onto memory and how to let it go. Beginning with her affirmation "the body, that ancient house for the soul... spins toward ultimate healing," she also meditates on faith, relationships, and aging, allowing space for grief and questions. Most essentially—in a life that chooses energy over entropy—Luci Shaw celebrates creatures, creatives, and the Creator, vowing "to live like the cedar tree in the psalm/....to never/let the years hinder my going and my growing." May it be so. *Reversing Entropy* astutely mentors us for a thriving and enduring life. —Marjorie Maddox, author of *Begin with a Question*

"Every lost word will recall its meaning," Luci Shaw begins in this, her latest volume, all "restored to its place in a poem." How often she has reminded us that what "seems mundane and trivial may show itself to be a holy, precious part of a pattern," I think of the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins when I enter her poems. How often she has captured the light shining in and through the things of our world, her scintillant music

Iron Pen
9781640608702
1640608702
Pub Date: 4/2/2024
On Sale Date: 4/2/2024
Ship Date: 3/12/2024
\$22.00
Trade Paperback

128 Pages
Grades 13 And Up
Poetry / Subjects & Themes
POE003000

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

transforming what is there before us, there in the stars and at our feet in the sand and pebbles and motes around us. With her photographer's trained eye she humbly reveals again and again the incredible abundance of God's plentitude. And for that gift, so gracefully and abundantly bestowed, I thank and praise her. —Paul Mariani

Reversing Entropy incarnates what Luci Shaw's long life gives record to: that all things are transformed, from leaf to dirt, from lost words to new poem; from shadow to light. For her the order of the universe is the re-ordering of disorder. As in the past, so these newest poems are almost preternaturally attuned to the changes and always changing natural world—the slow growth of lichens; the quick migrating flights of starlings. Luci Shaw's poems and life have been lived in faithfulness to the gift of the world around us, a gift intimately connected to the gift of words, to the making and remaking that goes on and on. She is a woman utterly open to the annunciations of starlight, to the "music" of fragrant lilies of the valley, to the exuberance of spring green leaf-light. She has lived her life according to one abiding principle: let wherever you find yourself be a place of opportunity rather than disappointment. These new poems exemplify what it means to be present, to live in a state of readiness for whatever comes next. —Robert Cording

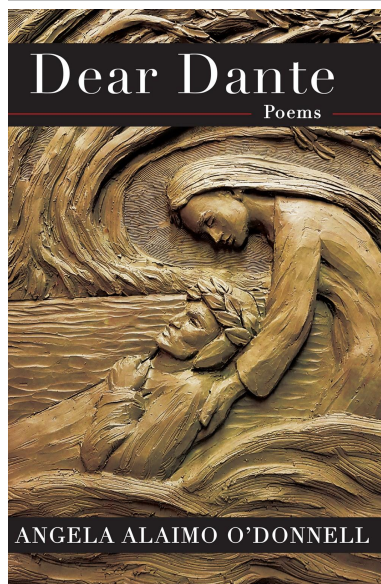
Those who love Luci Shaw's earlier poems will find in these a familiar, welcoming openness to the light that shines from every leaf and the voice that speaks in wind. In these her attentiveness to the created order extends to other dimensions of awareness—of her own longings and losses, of the scope of small pleasures, of how acceptance gentles the challenges of aging and of the learning that happens in moments of letting go. Images and words linger long after putting the book down and widen like ripples on waters disturbed by a soft breeze. —Marilyn McEntyre, author of *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*, *When Poets Pray*, and *Speaking Peace in a Climate of Conflict*

In *Reversing Entropy*, Luci Shaw takes a stand with eternity against the passing of mortal time. In poems that by turn lament and accept the evening of her many days, she is able to feel "the dark at its deepest" while remaining her "flush, fresh, living" self. She makes me hope that all of us, as we age and slow, will still be "like kids waiting / to go outside for recess." There, on that far playground, "shadow will be consumed by the wide mouth of light." —Paul J. Willis, author of *Somewhere to Follow*

Luci Shaw in *Reversing Entropy*, her new book of luminous poems, confronts chaos and plague, indeed, old age and death, and rolls them back on themselves, discovering when she does that "beauty will not be / always dimmed, no matter how long it waits." Throughout the lyrical collection, Shaw "[p]airs the antonyms/energy and entropy," as she tries to recapture each "lost word," recognizes she's "never been this old before," and grieves the loss of her only sibling whose "jagged narrative of a life" is "a cold meal . . . flavored with bitter herbs." In so doing, she explores the lichen's underworld, mountain trails, whales and weeds, even a Sequoia "thick as God's arm," so that with her, we can see how "[g]reen/gushes from every notch and knot" and "sunlight winks its enchantment." In reflecting upon all that she has weathered, Shaw's signature voice invites us to feel the "torn tissues / ragged blemishes" of "[f]ailures" and "regrets," yet pin our hope on the "gleaming fabric of / metaphors" and the "tenacious / truths . . . that will not fade like breath on a / mirror." How can we possibly say no? —Julie L. Moore, author of *Full Worm Moon*

Luci Shaw is the patron saint of wonder. She writes of needing to be there, in creation, like a journalist taking field notes. And we need her to be there, too, "holding all the world-loveliness...by pinning it in print on paper." Of all the loveliness she's captured, over many decades, this might be her best collection yet. —Sarah Arthur, author of *A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle*

Illustrations



Paraclete Press
9781640609372
1640609377
Pub Date: 4/9/2024
On Sale Date: 4/9/2024
Ship Date: 3/19/2024
\$21.00
Trade Paperback

96 Pages
Grades 13 And Up
Poetry / Subjects & Themes
POE003000

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

Dear Dante

Poems

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell

Summary

An imagined conversation with Dante Alighieri written in response to the 700th anniversary of Dante's death by fellow Catholic poet, lover and master of the sonnet, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell.

In the summer of 2021, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell honored the 700th anniversary of Dante's death, by embarking on a three-month pilgrimage through the 100 cantos of *The Divine Comedy*, reading one canto per day. This new collection, *Dear Dante*, is her response to Dante's epic poem: 39 poems (13 for each of the 3 canticles), plus an additional 3 to serve as prologue and epilogue, all written in the poetic forms Dante loved best: the sonnet and the form he invented, terza rima.

In O'Donnell's words: "Dear Dante is a species of accompaniment, an act of homage, and a long love letter to Dante. It might also be read as a series of meditations that attest to how dear Dante is to us. The *Commedia* is our inheritance, a gift granted to readers by our brother poet 700 years ago. These poems are an admittedly small expression of gratitude for that grand and graced gift. Grazie Mille, Maestro."

Contributor Bio

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Ph.D., is a writer, poet, and professor. She teaches English, Creative Writing, and courses in Catholic Studies at Fordham University in New York City and serves as Associate Director of Fordham's Curran Center for American Catholic Studies. She is also co-editor of the Curran Center's new book series, "Studies in the Catholic Imagination: The Flannery O'Connor Trust Series," published by Fordham University Press.

Quotes

"Dear Dante unfolds as a poetic correspondence between two poets in dialogue across space, time, and languages. Both are pilgrims striving to walk their paths to achieve the bliss of heaven, and though they are separated by centuries, they are not so different. Both interrogate themselves and their worlds while eliciting in their readers the desire to join and partake in their poetic and spiritual camino. Angela Alaimo O'Donnell's rare sensitivity as a reader and her technical excellence as a poet take us closer to the *Commedia* by making Dante's poetry alive and engaged with our modern world and selves." —**Susanna Barsella**, author of *In the Light of the Angels: Angelology and Cosmology in Dante's Divina Commedia*

"What a splendid reading Angela Alaimo O'Donnell offers us here in *Dear Dante*, as she travels (poet with poet) with Dante as her guide through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise! And the emotions O'Donnell registers in these responses to the Prince of Poets—from the deep, chilling wisdom and pity she gleans from Hell, to the tears for our human frailty, to that visceral sense of experiencing what is lost for good in our purgation, to understanding the necessity to let go of our ego-centered desires for the one thing necessary: Love. And all of this told, as with her other teacher, Flannery O'Connor, with a wit and honesty and deep insight where even words fail as we search for that One Word we hunger for." —**Paul Mariani**, author of *Deaths and Transfigurations, The Mystery of It All, and All That Will be New*

"This splendid homage in Dante's favorite forms reflects Angela Alaimo O'Donnell's love and passionate engagement with *The Divine Comedy*. Pondering the *Inferno* she outdoes the maestro in compassion, 'Perfection is a dream the heartless chase.' Her meditations on the *Purgatorio* reaffirm Dante, allowing that 'souls en route to God know how to sing' and she deftly catches his *Paradiso's* peace of heart 'Where desire is defeated, love comes first.' We both delight in these poems and are reawakened to the

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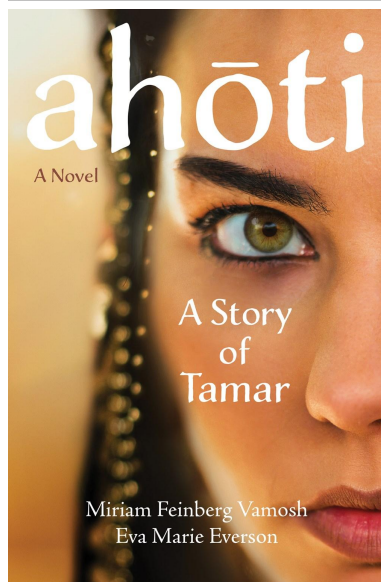
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Acknowledgements

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Ahoti: A Story of Tamar

A Novel

Miriam Feinberg Vamosh, Eva Marie Everson

Summary

A masterful retelling of Tamar's story of redemption, faith, healing, and justice

"As an author of biblical fiction, I know the amount of research and work that goes into crafting a story like this. Miriam Feinberg Vamosh and Eva Marie Everson comprise the perfect team." —**Jerry B. Jenkins**, *The Chosen* series

Ravaged by one brother, silenced and betrayed by another, and abandoned by her father, Tamar—once beloved daughter of the king of Israel, and healer of the court—suddenly finds herself in exile, fleeing for her life. But the story continues where the scriptures end: a dangerous journey and tenacious pursuit of her true identity and calling brings her full circle, to her rightful place in the kingdom.

Connoisseurs of Biblical fiction will love *Ahoti*.

- *Ahoti* brings to life the Old Testament story of the biblical princess Tamar, the daughter of David, King of Israel.
- The familiar Bible story ends with Tamar living “desolate” (2 Samuel 13:20), but master storytellers Miriam Feinberg Vamosh and Eva Marie Everson take readers beyond this sorrowful ending to a horizon of hope, thanks to their brilliant adaptation of an ancient anonymous manuscript, purportedly written by Gad the Seer (1 Chronicles 29:29), which was discovered in India in the early 18th century. Beyond the biblical text, this manuscript provides a surprising conclusion, which has powerful modern-day significance.
- Rich with cultural, biblical, and historic detail, and spiritually compelling, *Ahoti* will inspire readers to overcome humiliation, pain, betrayal, and bitterness, to embrace a life of purpose.

Learn more at ahotibook.com.

Contributor Bio

Miriam Feinberg Vamosh lives in Israel. She is a renowned author and translator with a passion for the Bible, her land, her people, and her heritage. An expert in the field of Archeology and Heritage, Miriam is also a beloved tour educator across the Holy Land. She was a longtime member of the translation team at the Israeli daily *Haaretz*.

Eva Marie Everson is a multiple award-winning author and speaker, CEO of Word Weavers International, and director of the Florida Christian Writers Conference. A graduate of the Tzemach Institute, she also has a degree in biblical studies from Andersonville Seminary. Eva Marie and her husband make their home in Central Florida.

Quotes

“Evocative, illuminating, beautiful, tragic, and triumphant at once. *Ahoti* is the story of Tamar we only thought we knew—a tale of faith and hardship written in breathtaking detail.”

—**Tosca Lee**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Iscariot* and *The Legend of Sheba*

“In *Ahoti: A Story of Tamar*, Miriam Feinberg Vamosh and Eva Marie Everson create a gripping story of Tamar, King David’s daughter who was raped by her half-brother Amnon. The narrative stays true to the sparse details of the biblical story, and fills in the gaps by adding plausible details to the plot and realistic portrayals of the



Paraclete Press
9781640608986
1640608982
Pub Date: 5/14/2024
On Sale Date: 5/14/2024
Ship Date: 4/23/2024
\$22.00
Trade Paperback

240 Pages
Grades 13 And Up
Fiction / Christian
FIC042090

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
Status: **FORTHCOMING**

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characters in the story. Today's readers will relate to the loneliness and shame Tamar experiences because of the actions and inactions of her father, brother, and half-brother. At the same time modern readers will appreciate the support the women in the story give to Tamar. Their concern makes possible the gift of transformation Tamar experiences as the story ends." —**Joan E. Cook**, S.C., Ph.D., author of *Hannah's Desire, God's Design: Early Interpretations of the Story of Hannah* and articles about biblical women as teachers for today

"Our ancestors faced the same traumas and troubles that plague us in this age, and dealt with them in much the same way. That's why *Ahoti: A Story of Tamar* is relevant to this generation of ordinary people trying to make sense of a world filled with violence and dishonor. Miriam Feinberg Vamosh and Eva Marie Everson relate the tragedy of King David's daughter Tamar, filling in the details from the historical reality of ancient Israel. This is a story of one whose faith in the God of Israel overcomes the epic failures of those who also serve her God, but whose humanness inevitably tarnishes His Name. The result is an uplifting account of a woman who could have allowed her circumstances to make her a perpetual victim, but who chooses to become mistress of her own destiny." —**Albert J. McCarn**, creator of *The Barking Fox* and Executive Director of B'ney Yosef North America

"As an author of biblical fiction, I know the amount of research and work that goes into crafting a story like this. Miriam Feinberg Vamosh and Eva Marie Everson comprise the perfect team." —**Jerry B. Jenkins**, author of *The Chosen* series

"In a compelling melding of Jewish history, folklore, and biblical truth, the tragic story of King David's daughter, Tamar, leaps off the page and shouts a redemptive cry for every woman silenced by her circumstance. A masterpiece of fiction based on solid historical documentation, *Ahoti: A Story of Tamar*, is a biblically accurate and believable story about one of the most unfairly treated women in the Bible. The authors have successfully related Tamar's tragic tale without villainizing David or the ancient culture in which he ruled by presenting a strong woman's response to a lifetime of adversity. Today's reader will find an example of hard-won redemption for the past and hope for an unexpectedly hopeful future." —**Mesu Andrews**, best-selling author of *In Feast or Famine*

"I was privileged to have the opportunity to discover, annotate, and publish the ancient text *Words of Gad the Seer*. Now I feel even more privileged, when Ms. Feinberg Vamosh and Mrs. Everson share part of the book with the whole world. This story of Tamar is for women by nature, and it is almost unbelievable that it was told thousands of years ago." —**Prof. Meir Bar-Ilan**, Professor Emeritus, Former chair, Talmud Department, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, Author, among many other works, of *Words of Gad the Seer, Some Jewish Women in Antiquity*

"Fans of Biblical Historical Fiction will fall in love with Vamosh and Everson's *Ahoti*. This story is filled with heartache and healing in a beautifully crafted tale of pain, loss, and redemption. A compelling historical novel that answers the question, "What happened to Tamar?" The authors bring well-known historical figures to life through this familiar tale of woe with an unexpected twist. From the splendor of David's palace in Jerusalem, to the lowly streets of Abel, to the haven and confinement of Geshur, and back again, Tamar finds herself on a journey she never knew was waiting for her. Vamosh and Everson grant Tamar not only a well-crafted story that ultimately results in a new name, but also readers a woven tapestry of God's redemption they can wrap around their personal struggles." —**Jenifer Jennings**, author of biblical historical fiction

"*Ahōti, a Story of Tamar*, is a beautifully written novel that goes beyond Tamar's sad ending in Scripture to a vision of hope and redemption, a story that brings Tamar full circle to healing and her rightful place in the kingdom. Miriam and her co-author Eva based their story on an anonymous manuscript purportedly by Gad the Seer, a prophet in King David's court (1 Chronicles 29:29), which is in the Cambridge University Library, MS 00.1.20. It was copied in Cochin, India in the middle of the eighteenth

century, and it consists of fourteen "chapters," chapter thirteen of which provides the grist for Miriam and Eva's novel.

Miriam is a brilliant and gifted writer and *Ahōti, a Story of Tamar* is one of her best offerings. It will be published in May of 2024, and I encourage all of you to pre-order a copy today. I have. And I hope you will, too. You will love this exquisite novel!" —**Dr.**

Bill Creasy, "This Week at Logos" newsletter

"Vamosh (*The Scroll*) and Everson (*The Ornament Keeper*) put an empowering spin on the biblical story of Tamar, the daughter of King David...[I]t's a welcome and often gripping portrait of the unsung courage of a biblical heroine."—**Publishers Weekly**