

MODERN SPIRITUAL MASTERS SERIES

MATTHEW FOX



Essential Writings on Creation Spirituality

*Selected with an Introduction by*

CHARLES BURACK



ORBIS BOOKS  
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com)

---

Selections copyright © 2022 by Matthew Fox

Introduction copyright © 2022 by Charles Burack

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

Pages xiii–xvi represent an extension of this copyright page.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

---

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Fox, Matthew, 1940- author.

Title: Matthew Fox : essential writings on creation spirituality / selected with an introduction by Charles Burack.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, [2022] | Series: Modern spiritual masters series | Includes bibliographical references. | Summary:

“Essential writings by Matthew Fox, theologian and leading proponent of ‘creation spirituality.’”-- Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021035175 (print) | LCCN 2021035176 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984554 | ISBN 9781608339181 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Theology. | Spirituality--Christianity. | Creation.

Classification: LCC BX5995.F65 A5 2022 (print) | LCC BX5995.F65 (ebook) | DDC 283--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021035175>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021035176>

# Contents

<i>Sources and Permissions</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
<i>Early Life</i>	4
<i>Becoming a Priest</i>	6
<i>The Paris Years</i>	9
<i>Teaching at Loyola and Barat and Writing about Spirituality</i>	11
<i>ICCS Moves West to Holy Names College</i>	17
<i>Escalating Troubles with the Vatican</i>	19
<i>A Year of Silence</i>	21
<i>Expulsion</i>	23
<i>A Postdenominational Priest</i>	25
<i>Planetary and Cosmic Masses</i>	26
<i>Leaving ICCS and Launching the University         of Creation Spirituality</i>	27
<b>YELLAWE</b>	30
<i>Continuing to Protest the Vatican</i>	32
<i>Books, Books, and More Books</i>	32
<i>How This Book Was Co-Created</i>	34
<b>1. THE CREATION SPIRITUALITY TRADITION</b>	36
<i>What Is Creation Spirituality?</i>	36
<i>Like Falling Off My Horse: Père Chenu             Names the Creation Spiritual Tradition</i>	36
<i>Contrasting Creation Spirituality to             Fall/Redemption Religion</i>	44
<i>A Spiritual Paradigm for Our Times</i>	48
<i>Fall/Redemption versus Creation-Centered Spirituality</i>	49
<i>Foundational Paths and Themes of Creation Spirituality</i>	52
<i>The Four Paths of Creation Spirituality</i>	53
<i>Original Blessing</i>	59
<i>Cosmic Christ</i>	61
<i>Realized Eschatology</i>	64

Panentheism	64
Trust Is the Real Meaning of Faith	65
<b>2. DREAMS AND VISIONS</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>Dreams</i>	66
On Being Invited to Holy Names College	66
“Your Mother Is Dying”	67
Outside the Rusty Gate	70
Adrienne Rich, a Silver Sea, and a Very Feminist Dream	71
<i>Vision Quest</i>	72
Animals as Other Christs	72
Notes from My Vision Quest	72
<b>3. SCIENCE AND CREATION SPIRITUALITY</b>	<b>75</b>
<i>A New Cosmology and Science of Fields, Souls, and Angels</i>	75
<i>Dialogue with Brian Swimme</i>	75
A Parts Mentality versus Wholeness Mentality	75
Mind as Computer versus Based in the Human Spirit	77
Cosmogogenesis	78
<i>Thomas Berry on the New Cosmology</i>	79
<i>Dialogues with Rupert Sheldrake</i>	79
Has the Concept of Field Replaced the Concept of Soul?	80
On Darkness and Light	81
Too Much Light and Insomnia in the Modern World	83
Angels as Fields	84
Angels as Connectors	85
Hierarchy as Pattern	86
A Power That Flows into Angels and All Beings	86
Silence as a Vacuum That Sucks Angels In	87
Blind Chance versus Guiding Intelligence in Evolution	88
Angels as Photons	88
<b>4. CREATION MYSTICS</b>	<b>90</b>
<i>Hildegard of Bingen: Feminist, Mystic, Eco-Prophet</i>	90
On Love of Creation	90
Our Struggle for Wisdom	91
The Feminism of Hildegard of Bingen	92
The Man in Sapphire Blue: A Study in Compassion	93
<i>Viriditas</i> : Greening Power	95

Hildegard's Many Contributions to Creation Spirituality	97
Hildegard as Eco-Prophet	98
<i>Thomas Aquinas: Lover of Creation</i>	99
On the Via Positiva: The Nature of God	100
On the Via Negativa: Meditation, Receptivity, and Being Emptied	102
On the Via Creativa: Things Are Godlike and Possess the Dignity of Causality	103
On the Via Transformativa: Imitating God through Compassion	104
<i>Meister Eckhart: Creation Mystic, Prophet, Deep Ecumenist</i>	109
Via Positiva: "All Creatures Are Words of God" (Sermon 1)	110
Via Negativa: How a Radical Letting Go Becomes a True Letting Be (Sermon 15)	111
Compassion Is an Ocean (Sermon 31)	112
Justice, the Prophetic Side to Compassion	114
Eckhart as Deep Ecumenist	115
Additional Rich Teachings from Meister Eckhart	115
<i>Julian of Norwich: The Return of the Divine Feminine</i>	118
Julian and the Pandemic	118
Showings—Revelations of Divine Love	119
A Singular Theology	120
All Spiritual Seekers Are the Cosmic Christ	120
If the Church Had Chosen to Follow Julian	121
The Divine Feminine and the Motherhood of God	121
Goodness and Joy	123
The Oneing of God and Us	124
Nondualism and the Joy of Trusting Our Sensuality	124
Love, the Meaning of Her Work and of the Universe	125
<i>Thomas Merton: Creation Mystic, Poet, Prophet,     and Lover of Meister Eckhart</i>	125
Merton Encounters Meister Eckhart	126
The Role of Spirituality in Art	127
The Prophetic Struggle with the World	128
Fundamentalist Religion, Empire, and Idolatry	129
Technology: The Great Problem of the Day	129
Motherhood of God	130
The Cosmic Christ	131

<b>5. SPIRITUAL PRACTICES, THE COSMIC MASS, AND CREATIVITY</b>	132
<i>Prayer, Art as Meditation, and New Practices and Rituals</i>	132
Prayer as a Radical Response to Life	133
The One to Whom We Respond	134
The Meaning of “Radical”	135
A New Commandment: To Love Life	136
Prophets Respond by Creating	136
Prayer Is Radical Socially	136
Meditation	137
Some Fresh and Useful Spiritual Practices	139
The Cosmic Mass (TCM)	141
Grieving Rituals and the Cosmic Mass	142
Art as Meditation: The Way of the Prophets	143
<i>Creativity</i>	145
Our Creative Ancestors	146
Our Creative Essence	147
Creativity and the Demonic	148
A Creative Universe	148
The Creative Heart of God	149
God as the Artist of Artists	149
Co-Creating with God	149
Imagination Is a Gift from God	150
Fundamentalist Imagination-Bashing	150
The Unimaginative Academy	151
Imagination Means “Soul”	151
Patriarchy Seeks to Control	151
<b>6. COMBATTING EVIL: PROPHECY AND COMPASSION</b>	153
<i>Awakening the Prophet</i>	153
What Is a Prophet?	153
The Prophet in Each of Us	154
Prophets Are Non-Elitists	155
Responding to Our Prophetic Vocation	155
The Oppressed ( <i>Anawim</i> ) Are a Source of Revelation	156
<i>Compassion</i>	156
Compassion as World Energy Source	156
Compassion Is Not Pity but Celebration	157
Compassion Is Not Sentiment	157

God Is Compassionate	158
Wheel of Compassion	158
Climbing Jacob's Ladder	159
Dancing Sarah's Circle	160
Climbing Jacob's Ladder versus Dancing Sarah's Circle	160
A Compassionate Future	161
Compassion and Competition	162
Compassion versus Compulsion	162
Compassion as Salvation	163
Solitude and Celebration	163
Forgiveness Frees Us to Be Compassionate	163
Resurrection	163
<i>Sensuality and the Prophets</i>	164
Passion, Imagination, and the Prophets	164
Sensual Spirituality	164
Ecstasy	165
Natural and Tactical Ecstasies	166
Natural Pleasures	167
Cherish the Body	168
<i>Evil</i>	169
Evil Evolves	169
Evil as Chaos	170
Bored by Sin	170
The Body Doesn't Sin	170
Death Is Real	170
No Dualism	171
Awesome, Sacred Flesh	171
Flesh Redeems	171
Evolutionary Understanding	172
Creative Evil	172
Acedia: Ennui and Couch-Potato-Itis	172
Adam and Eve	173
Arrogance	174
Racism	174
Addiction	174
Dualism	174
Victimhood	175
Self-Pity	175
Authentic Empowerment	175

Envy	176
From Evil to the Sacred	176
<b>7. YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND WORK</b>	<b>177</b>
<i>Youth, Eldering, and Vocation</i>	177
YELLAWE	177
Vocation	178
Vocation as Via Creativa	179
The Future Is Calling	179
Only One Vocation	180
Mentoring	180
Eldering and Evolution	181
Refirement, Not Retirement	182
<i>Education</i>	182
A Need for Wisdom Schools	182
Education for Work	183
The Power of Storytelling	183
Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality	184
Educating for Awe	186
Educating about Evil	187
Learning from Our Ancestors	188
The Cosmos as Ancestor	189
The 10 Cs to Balance the 3 Rs	190
<i>Work</i>	190
Changing How We Define Work	191
Prophetic Work	192
Inner and Outer Work	192
<b>8. SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECOLOGICAL ACTIVISM</b>	<b>198</b>
<i>Social and Political Activism</i>	198
Includes Psychology, the Body, and Creativity	199
Action Rooted in Vocation	200
Joy, Sensuality, and Celebration	201
Democratic	201
Based in Community and Serving Humanity and Life	203
Solidarity with Liberation Theology Movement	203
<i>Gender: The Divine Feminine and the Sacred Masculine</i>	203
Embracing Feminism	204
Feminists Are Prophets	206



God Is the Black Madonna	206
God Is Mother	207
God Is the Goddess	207
God Is Tara	208
God Is Kuan Yin	208
Recovering the Sacred Masculine: The Blue Man	209
The Earth Father	209
Eagerness for the Sacred Masculine	211
<i>Ecology, Eco-Justice, Order of the Sacred Earth</i>	212
Thomas Berry on Creation Spirituality	212
Green Man	212
Silence and Introspection	214
The Green Man and the Black Madonna: A Sacred Marriage	214
The Order of the Sacred Earth: A Dream	215
Who Is Welcome to the Order?	216
Mystic Warriors Are Needed	217
<b>9. CHURCH AND BEYOND</b>	218
<i>From Religion to Spirituality?</i>	218
Spirituality or Religion?	218
On Coming Out of an Enforced Year of Silence	220
On Becoming an Episcopalian Priest	221
Pounding Theses at Luther's Church in Wittenberg: A Dream	221
Two Christianities: Time for a Divorce?	222
Ninety-Five Theses or Articles of Faith for a Renewed Christianity	225
Some Similarities between Creation Spirituality and Liberation Theology	226
Some Differences between Creation Spirituality and Liberation Theology	227
<b>10. DEEP ECUMENISM, INTERFAITH</b>	229
<i>Deep Ecumenism</i>	229
The Universality of Experience	231
Universality in Indian Mysticism	232
Universality in Islam	233
Universality in Buddhism	234

Universality in the Africian-American Tradition	235
Universality in Judaism	235
Universality in Christianity	236
Christian and Buddhist Goals	236
Aboriginal Religion and the Dreamtime	238
Goddess Traditions, Patriarchy, and Postmodern Science	240
<i>Conclusion</i>	242
<i>Appendix</i>	251
<i>Resources for Creation Spirituality</i>	252