

The New Epistle

a newsletter of

The Progressive Episcopal Church

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Pentecost

June 4

JUNE NEWS

As summer begins and schools are out, many of us may be travelling on vacations to places around the US, or around the world. For those who are travelling, take the opportunity to thoroughly appreciate the rich and diverse beauty of God's Creation that you encounter not only in the land, but in the people of the land as well. Yes, mosquitoes may be unpleasant and annoying (as are some people we meet!) but even the unpleasant things can have something to teach us.

On the list of TPEC happenings at some point this summer will be the consecration of Rev Canon Rick Ward-Harder as Suffragan Bishop of the Delta; also the ordination of Min. Colin Keller to the priesthood. Both are presenting some scheduling challenges, so no dates have yet been set. Sometimes the Holy Spirit in her wisdom gives us challenges that strengthen us, challenges to bring us growth and wisdom. And in Her own time, She may reveal to us the reason She gave us the challenge! For those of us who have had this experience, such revelations can be truly wondrous!

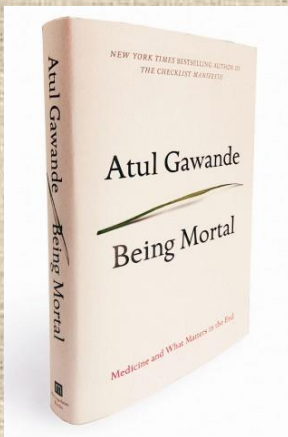
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Summer also tends to bring not only hot weather, but inclement weather as well, such as hurricane, tornadoes, and floods. It is no secret that the current Presidential Administration has been cutting back on funding and staffing for critical agencies, and as of this writing there is no one heading FEMA or NOAA, both essential bodies for dealing with weather-related disasters.

Though that situation is not good, may we be reminded of Jesus' call – his mandate – that we are to be stewards of each other. Our human history is filled with thousands of years of people helping people in times of disasters. So while critical federal agencies lacking leadership seems ominous, we the people may find strength in each other, and miracles will be seen to happen of the most extraordinary magnitude.

Summer Reading

While many people like to spend summer travelling, many others enjoy a summer full of reading, perhaps in a shaded hammock with a glass of iced tea handy. TPEC offers in this newsletter a selection of books and other resources for your library or summer reading.



Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

by Atul Gawande

ISBN-13: 978-1250081247

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

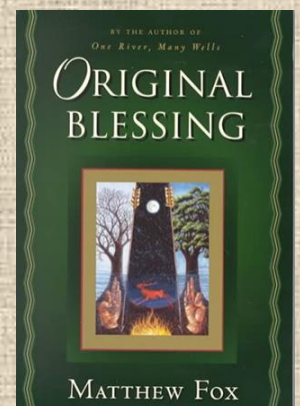
Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

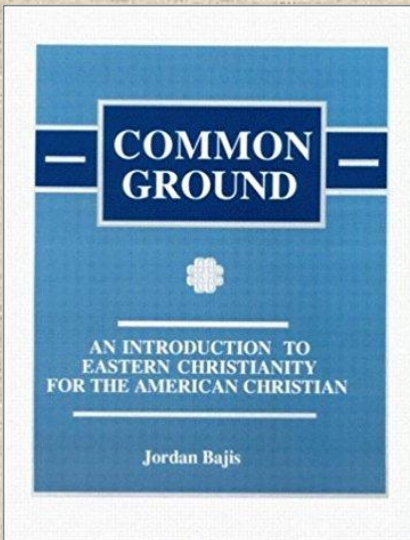
Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality

by Matthew Fox

ISBN-13: 978-1585420674

Here is a reissue of the critically acclaimed bestseller, named one of the "20 books that changed the world" in *New Age Journal's* Annual Source Book for 1995. Theologian Matthew Fox provides a daring view of historical Christianity and a theologically sound basis for personal discovery of spiritual liberation. In this revolutionary work, Fox shows how Christianity once celebrated beauty, compassion, justice, and provided a path of positive knowledge and ecstatic connection with all creation.





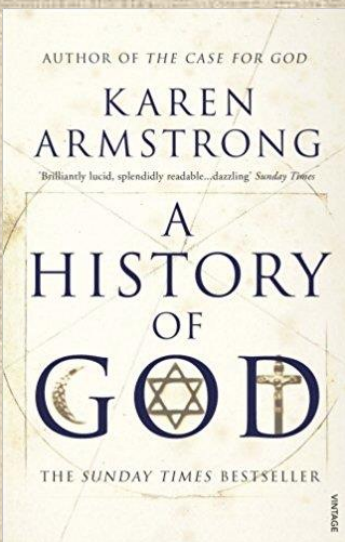
Common Ground: An Introduction to Eastern Christianity for the American Christian

by Jordan Bajis

ISBN-13: 978-1880971987

Provides clear, stimulating answers to the challenging questions that American Christians typically put to Orthodox. But the book goes farther than this. Common Ground begins by showing how Christianity is inherently Eastern, and from there, gently challenges the Protestant and Roman Catholic reader to re-evaluate his or her own views of Christianity against the Orthodox perspective. Common Ground is perfect for the Western Christian interested in Ancient Faith, the sincere student of Orthodoxy, and the mission minded Eastern Christian who desires to communicate his faith in a sensitive but compelling manner. The book is a product of three years extensive research and is thoroughly documented. Common Ground definitely helps fill the need for Orthodox literature which can address the concerns of the American

Christian. There is no book like it.



A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

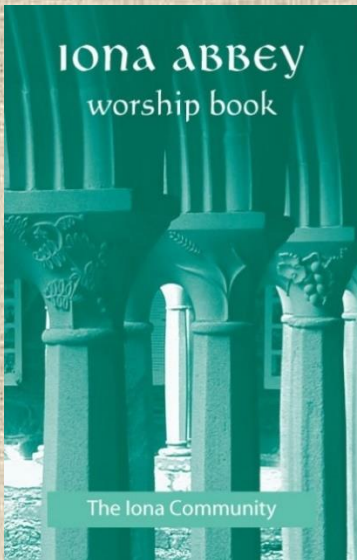
by Karen Armstrong

ISBN-13: 978-0345384560

This details the history of the three major monotheistic traditions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, along with Buddhism and Hinduism. The evolution of the idea of God is traced from its ancient roots in the Middle East up to the present day.

In this impressive work, Armstrong, a former nun, a British journalist, and the author of several books on religion, takes on a weighty topic indeed: the study of monotheism over 4,000 years. Beginning at the beginning (which is not Genesis but rather the cauldron of religions found in the Middle East around 4000 B.C.), she traces the circuitous road to monotheism, following the plethora of twists and turns along the way. Perhaps most interesting for those of Judeo-Christian

heritage are the chapters concerning Islam. Armstrong explains and explores this religion in a way that will enlighten those not familiar with its tenets. Besides discussing the three monotheistic religions, Armstrong also addresses such topics as mysticism, the philosophy of religion, and the death of God. Highly readable and provocative, this is a major contribution to religious studies and belongs on the shelves of most public libraries. (Review by Ilene Cooper)



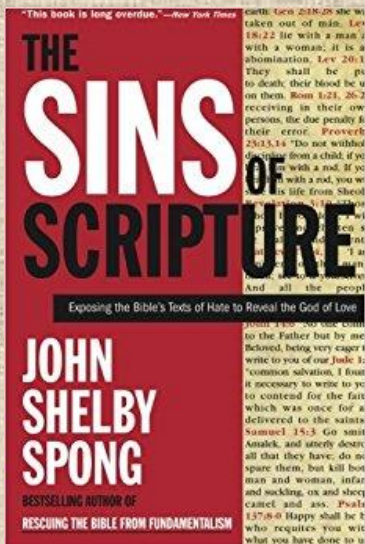
The Iona Abbey Worship Book

by Community Iona
ISBN-13: 978-1901557503

The services and resources in The Iona Abbey Worship Book reflect the Iona Community's commitment to the belief that worship is all that we are and all that we do, both inside and outside the church, with no division into the sacred and the secular. They draw on many traditions, including the Celtic, and aim to help us to be fully present to God, who is fully present to us in our neighbour, in the political and social activity of the world around us, and in the very centre and soul of our being.

Each year, thousands of visitors make their way to Iona and many are changed by their time on this small Hebridean island which has been a powerful spiritual centre over the centuries. The Iona Community does not believe that we are brought to Iona to be changed into religious people, but rather to be made more fully human. Our common life including our services is directed to that end.

The Iona Abbey Worship Book is used with enthusiasm by groups and congregations all over the UK, North America and in other parts of the world.



The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible's Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love

by John Shelby Spong
ISBN-13: 978-0060778408

In the Sins of Scripture, Bishop John Shelby Spong takes on a thematic exploration of the Bible, carefully analyzing those passages that inform some of our key debates, like the role of women in the church and in society, and homosexuality, to name just two. Beyond that he also looks at scriptures that have helped shape culture and history -- bringing to light the undercurrent of anti-Semitism he finds in the Gospels, for example. The journey is particularly compelling because Bishop Spong believes in and values the good the Bible has brought to many through the ages. His goal is not to define the Bible itself as something to be set aside, but instead to honor and value what he loves about it while still labeling what he dramatically calls "texts of terror" for what they are.

The true joy of the book is found in Spong's vigorous intellect, which he shines bright in an attempt to catch a reflection of the age, culture and circumstances in which the texts he examines were written. Like an archaeologist working with ideas instead of tools, he removes the rocks, brushes away the sediment and reports on what he finds. What were the roots and cultural realities behind the Scriptures that define the role of women in the church? What were the hopes and fears driving the writers who condemned homosexuality in such stark terms? What is the justification behind scriptures recommending "the rod of correction" (or as Bishop Spong simply labels it: "[t]he physical abuse of children...")

Whether or not you agree with some of his musings along the way, many of his conclusions are hard to argue with. Putting aside the issue of divine origin of the Bible, no one can deny passages have been used in service of very human ends. Finally, the Sins of Scriptures can be seen as a careful observer of what those ends have been.

		<h1>June 2017</h1>						
Copr. 2016, Ashby Co., Erie, Pa.							Churchman's Ordo Edition	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
READINGS Mass — Year A Office — Year One Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, pages 498-528. <i>See Notes on Reverse</i>] - In some Places	Glo.—Gloria Cr.—Creed Prf.—Proper Preface of Adv.—Advent Inc.—Incarnation Epi.—Epiphany H.Wk.—Holy Week Eas.—Easter Asc.—Ascension	Pen.—Pentecost Tri.—Trinity Sunday A.S.—All Saints St.—Saint Ap.—Apostles Ded.—Dedication Bap.—Baptism L.D.—Lord's Day	Days of Special Devotion are noted with ✠	Justin, Martyr at Rome, c. 167 1 Glo.Prf.St.3	The Martyrs of Lyons, 177 ✠ 2 Glo.Prf.St.3	The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 3 Glo.Prf.H.Wk.		
THE DAY OF PENTECOST: Whitsunday 4 Glo.Cr.Prf.Pen.	Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, Missionary to Germany and Martyr, 754 5 Glo.Prf.Ap.	[Norbert, Archbishop of Magdeburg, Founder of the Premonstratensians, 1134] [Common of a Pastor I, Glo.Prf.St.1]	The First Book of Common Prayer, 1549 Ember Day 7 Glo.Cr.Prf.Pen.	[William, Archbishop of York, 1154] [Common of a Pastor II, Glo.Prf.St.2]	Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597 Ember Day ✠ 9 Glo.Prf.Ap.	Ephrem of Edessa, Deacon, 373 Ember Day 10 Glo.Cr.Prf.St.1		
The First Sunday after Pentecost: TRINITY SUNDAY 11 Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.	SAINT BARNABAS THE APOSTLE (Tr. from 6/11) 12 Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.	[Anthony of Padua, Priest, Confessor, Doctor, 1231] [Common of a Theologian II, Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.]	Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379 14 Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.	CORPUS CHRISTI (Evelyn Underhill, 1941) Various Occasions 5 Glo.Cr.Prf.Epi. (Glo.Prf.Ded.)	Joseph Butler, ✠ Bishop of Durham, 1752 16 Glo.Prf.St.1	BVM on Saturday Propers for May 31 Glo.Prf.Inc. or BVM (TASB)		
The Second Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day) 18 Proper 6 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.	FERIA 19	[Trans. of Edward, King and Martyr, 980] 20 [Common of Martyrs II Prf.St.3]	FERIA 21	Alban, First Martyr of Britain, c. 304 22 Glo.Cr.Prf.St.3	[The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus] ✠ 23 [Various Occasions 6, Glo.Prf.H.Wk.]	THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST 24 Glo.Cr.Prf.Adv.		
The Third Sunday after Pentecost 25 Proper 7 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.	FERIA 26	[Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, 444] 27 [Common of a Theologian I, Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.]	Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Martyr, c. 202 28 Glo.Cr.Prf.Epi.	SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, APOSTLES 29 Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.	[Protomartyrs of the ✠ Church of Rome, 1st Century] 30 [Glo.Prf.H.Wk.]	✠		

June Birthdays	
Rt. Rev. Michael Sherbert	4
Rev. Tommie Spain	14
Rev. Sheldon Alley	21