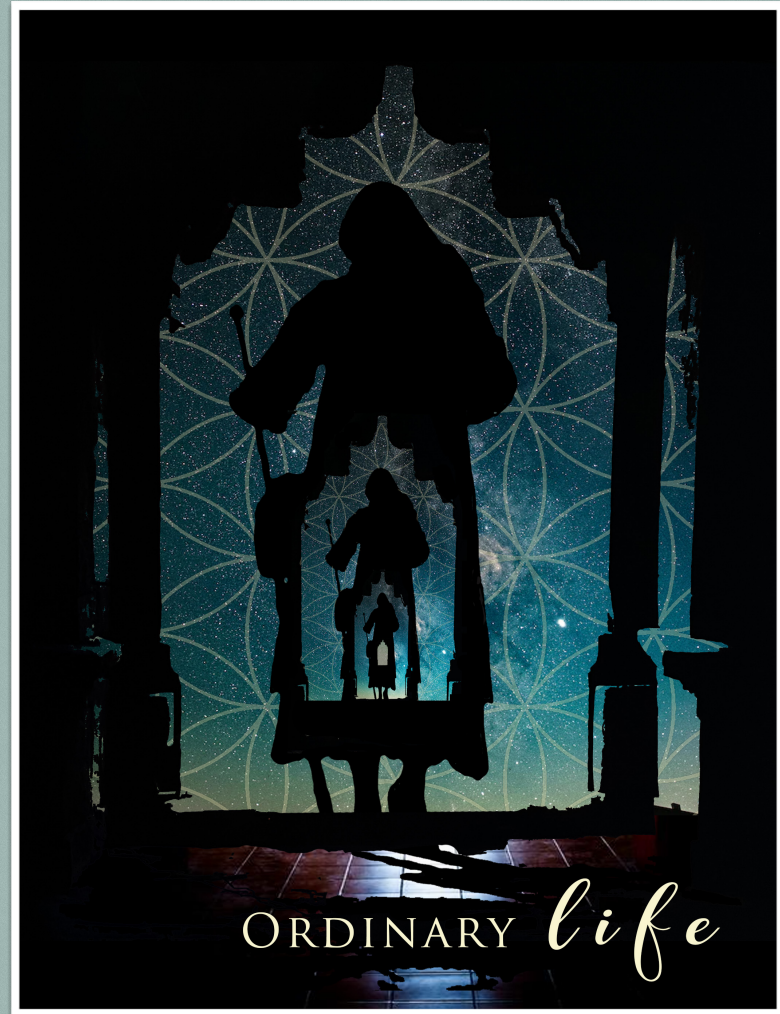


*Living in the
Sacred Stream*



Ordinary LIFE

*No matter who you are, no
matter where you are in
your spiritual journey, you
are **celebrated** here.*

SILENCE

Be Present

Be Open

Be Awake

*Grace be in our heads, and in our thinking.
Grace be in our eyes, and in our seeing.
Grace be in our ears, and in our hearing.
Grace be in our mouths, and in our speaking.
Grace be in our hearts, and in our
understanding.
Grace be in our end, and at our departing.*

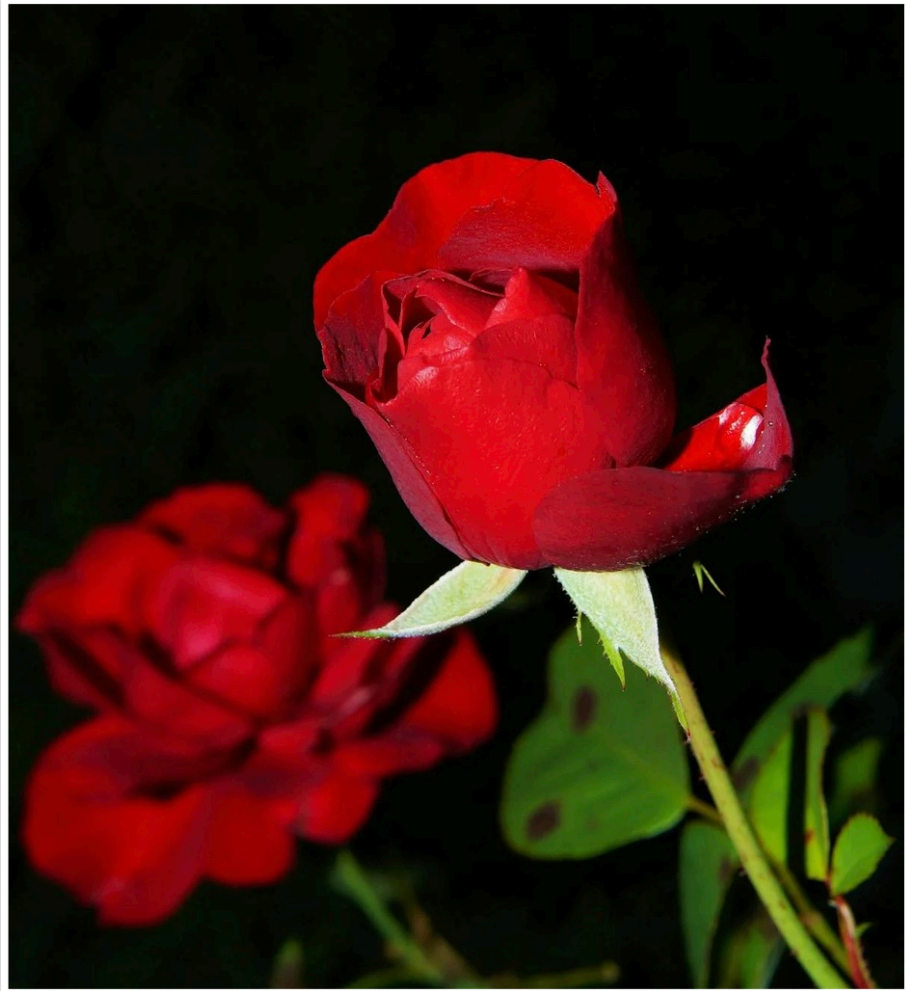
Living In the Sacred Stream



a deeper and better understanding
of Jesus and his teachings
a deeper and better understanding
of our true identity
a deeper and better understanding
of the flow of cosmic evolution



Ordinary LIFE



Finding Roses Among Thorns

Roses among Thorns

a theology of resilience and hope



"Just GO AWAY."

Ordinary LIFE

Rejecting Christian Nationalism,
Reclaiming True Faith,
and Refounding Democracy

FOREWORD
BY EDDIE
GLAUDE

THE
FALSE
WHITE
GOSPEL

New York Times bestselling author of *God's Politics*

Jim Wallis

"WALLIS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES WHY HE IS AMERICA'S PROPHET AND MORAL
PHILOSOPHER." —OTIS MOSS III, SENIOR PASTOR, TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Jesus is a victim of identity theft in America. Instead of wearing a bracelet that says, ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ or WWJD, it’s time to ask what did Jesus say, and what did he do. And to ask ourselves if we are willing to say and do that too.”

“Jesus is a victim of identity theft in America.

Instead of wearing a bracelet that says, ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ or WWJD, it’s time to ask what **did** Jesus **say**, and what did he **do**. And to ask ourselves if we are willing to say and do that too.”

Roses among Thorns

a theology of resilience and hope

*“Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried; and, that, on the third day he rose from the dead and, then, ascended into heaven where he sits **on** the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.”*

Dualistic Religion leaves us with two options -

the impossibility option

the uniqueness option

“recent Christianity” -

claims God was in Jesus in a way that God has not ever
been before or since

is both exclusive and unique

has split humans into beings who have both bodies
and souls

There was a burst of energy, enormous energy, that erupted out of the Jewish world after the death of Jesus that turned a bunch of fleeing, fearful men into loving, compassionate, fearless, joyful people who refused any longer to bow to the system.



Ordinary LIFE

Be disturbed by joy, hope and possibility!

Religious traditions, no matter what religion, are a combination of subjective descriptions of actual events plus mythological interpretations of those events by people who see things at a higher cognitive level than most of us live.

“And don’t tell me that I have no authority to write like this. I’m perfectly free to do this - isn’t that obvious? Haven’t I been given a job to do? Wasn’t I commissioned to do this work in a face-to-face meeting with Jesus, our Master?”

important things about this text

written fifteen years before the first Gospel - Mark

“according to the Scriptures”

Jesus was “raised by God” - he didn't rise

Jesus was raised back into God's own life and not
into an earthly existence

It cannot be stressed strongly enough. The story of the life of Jesus is not a series of "prophesies fulfilled." Rather, the story of the life of Jesus is a creation using Jewish "midrash" that the Jesus community created to make sense out of their experience with Jesus.

Objectivity is a carefully created human myth.

The evil of Christian fundamentalism is that it claims to know "what happened" and to have "the truth."

Jesus expressed "authentic
existence" and possessed "the
courage to be."



“Any time and any place we live as Jesus taught, Jesus’ spirit and energy continue in the world.”

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Jesus taught - among other things:

radical hospitality and inclusivity

confronted the “religion” in power of his day

a way of non-violence



Ordinary LIFE

It will take us hours of dedication, daily practice, commitment, love, willingness, struggle, openness, honesty and likely other qualities we have yet to develop to bring Jesus to life in these thorny times.

But, there are roses we can produce by doing so.

No matter where you go this week, no matter what happens, remember this: You carry precious cargo. So, watch your step.