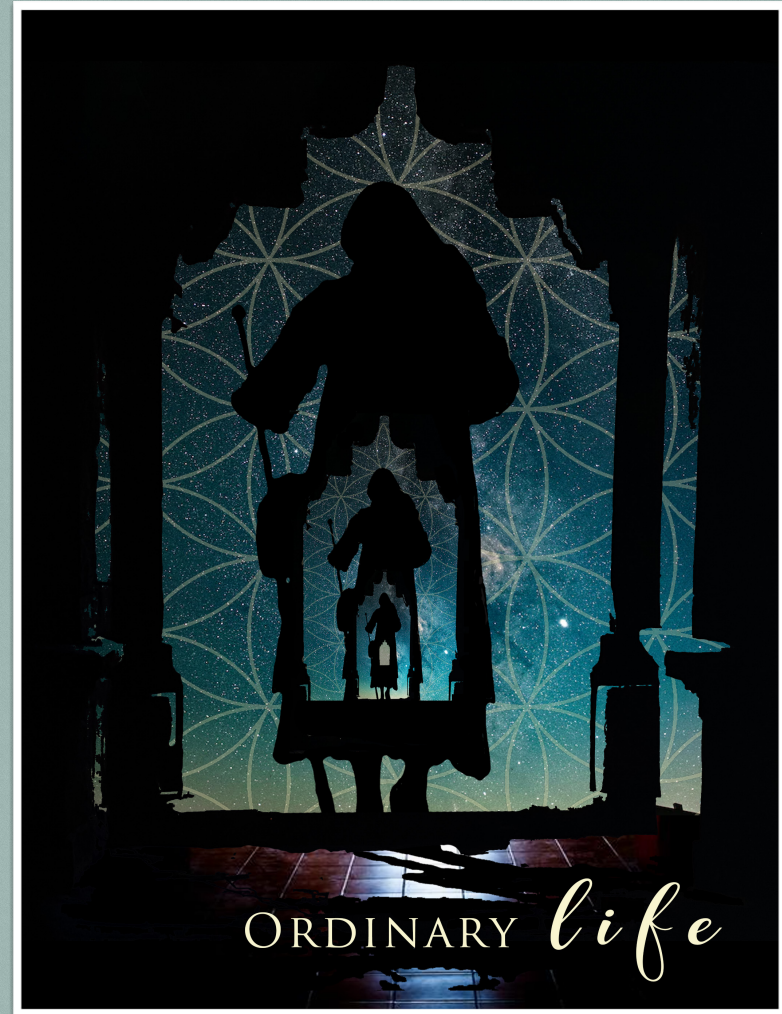


*Living in the
Sacred Stream*



Ordinary LIFE

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



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | 4-5 PM | SANCTUARY

MOZART'S REQUIEM

St. Paul's Choir, St. Paul's Choral Scholars, and St. Paul's Treble Choir combine forces with the Mercury Chamber Orchestra to perform one of the greatest choral works of all time.

Free Admission; underwritten by St Paul's Chamber Music Society.

Scan to
learn more



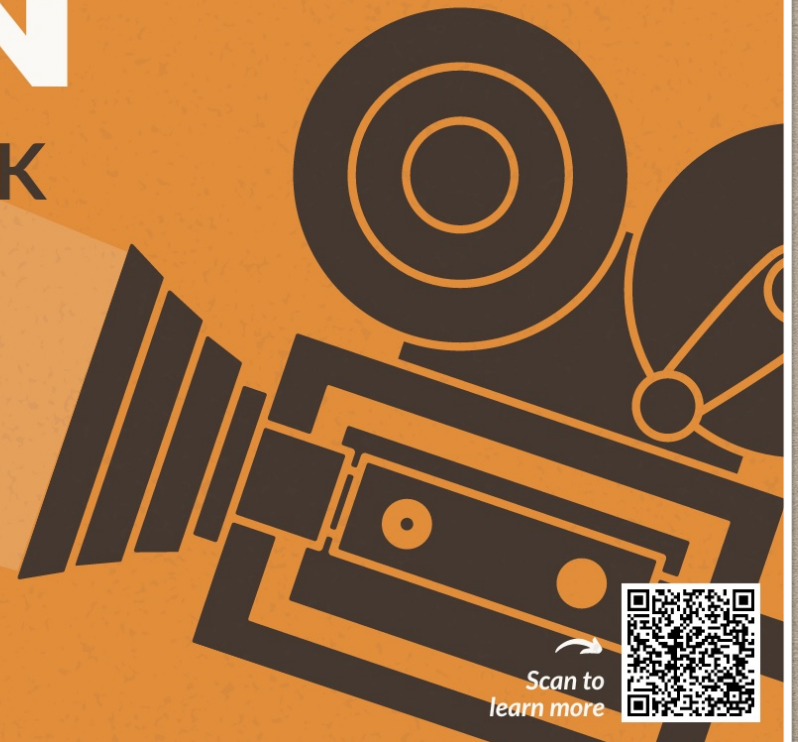


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | 9:45 AM | FONDREN HALL

WONDROUS WORLD OF RELIGION

DOCUMENTARY FILM & TALK

"Wondrous World of Religion" is a documentary created by Asia Society Documentary Filmmakers teen campers from summer 2023 & filmmaker Dan Gordon. Join Ordinary Life & St. Paul's Youth for this interfaith, multicultural & intergenerational learning event! Free to participate, just show up!



Scan to
learn more



*We suffer from depth deprivation.
These times are intended to help us break
through whatever habits of mind and heart
we have that keep us from a deep experience
with the Sacred and with life itself.
Be open to the possibility that being here can
change your life.
We seek to penetrate the illusions that keep
us from touching and being touched by
Reality.*

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.*

AN EXPERIMENT IN NOTICING

pay attention to the first reaction you have - it may be a
word, an image, a feeling, a memory

RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

Let's Talk About Religion

The Perennial Tradition

*if something is true it is always true - past, present, and
future*

*Something in us is greater than we know. We are in
something Greater than we know. We are largely
unknown to ourselves.*

*We have this wisdom within us. Yet, we have to receive
it.*

The Perennial Tradition

All reality is one.

Nothing is to be taken literally in the spiritual world.

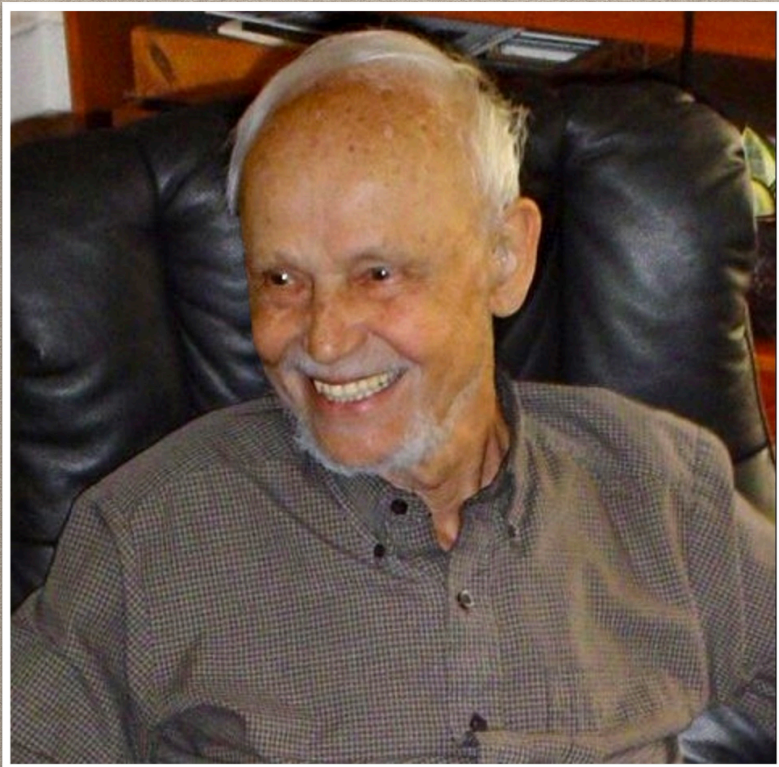
*Matter is alive and the mirror in which we see ourselves
and the Sacred.*

Growth and becoming constitute purpose.

“Humans are ‘hard-wired’ for religion just as we are ‘hard-wired’ to speak a language.”

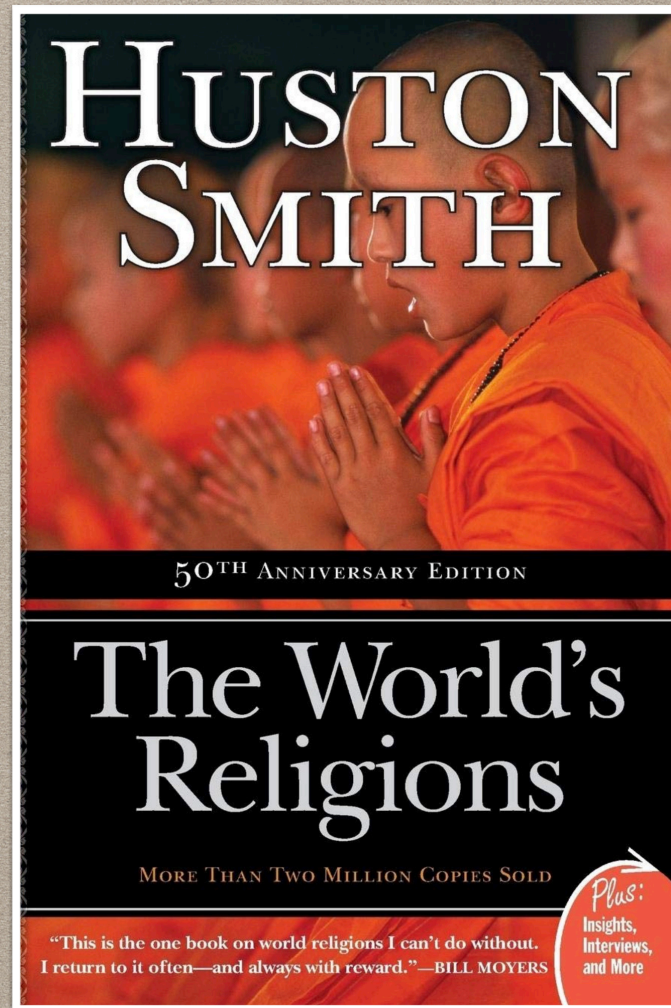
- John Dominic Crossan

Religion is a range of social-cultural systems, including designated behaviors and practices, morals, beliefs, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, or organizations, that generally relate humanity to supernatural, transcendental, and spiritual elements.



Huston Smith
1919 - 2016

Ordinary LIFE



The Dangers of Home Cooking

The one who does not travel thinks mother is the only cook.



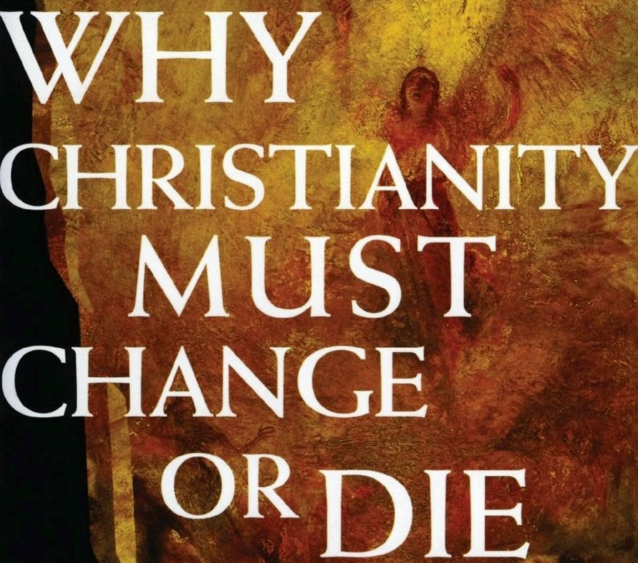
All religions are the product of the human societies where those religions are practiced. All religions use the symbol system of the culture in which they were created to express and experience the Sacred.

" . . . was born of the Virgin Mary, ,
suffered under Pontius Pilate . . . "

JOHN SHELBY SPONG

author of *RESCUING THE BIBLE FROM FUNDAMENTALISM*

NATIONAL BESTSELLER



WHY
CHRISTIANITY
MUST
CHANGE
OR DIE

A BISHOP SPEAKS
TO BELIEVERS IN EXILE

A NEW REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH'S FAITH AND PRACTICE

The purpose of religion is to sustain in the human community the zest for life by providing meaning and direction for living. Just as all religions have come into existence as a product of human development, just so they will survive into the future by a process of continuing growth and development.

*The opposite of faith is not doubt.
The opposite of faith is certainty.*

MEANINGS OF FAITH

believing something to be true

faithfulness

having trust

a way of seeing

WHY DO PEOPLE BELIEVE WEIRD THINGS?

We are constantly looking for things that confirm what we already believe.

We make things up to help us “make sense” of things.

People believe falsehoods.

People reject the truth.

The
Death
of the
Mythic God

THE RISE OF EVOLUTIONARY SPIRITUALITY



AUTHOR OF *PUTTING ON THE MIND OF CHRIST*

JIM MARION

A Model of Conscious Development

Archaic Consciousness

Magical Consciousness

Mythic Consciousness

Rational Consciousness

Vision-Logic Consciousness

Psychic Consciousness

Christ Consciousness

Up until the time that the Jesus movement became a "belief system" and Jesus got reduced to a comma, Jesus was not considered the great exception to humanity but the identity of every person who makes the journey in love.

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