

## Hedgerow Fall 2022 Syllabus

### **Hedgerow: Where Hedgerow Has Traveled, Where Hedgerow Aims to Go**

Over 15 years, Hedgerow has unfolded in spring and fall 12-week courses that immerse serious spiritual seekers in current theology to ask new creative and constructive questions from feminist, womanist, ecological, process, and cosmological points of view. Classes bring creative questioners and seekers together in the good company of other seekers of any faith tradition. The readings and presentations are richly academic, anchored in experience, and creative in generating insights. Courses will revisit big ideas and influential experiences of the past 15 years. We welcome all who have joined us over the years as well as new participants!

This 12-week course will include three different sections: Feminist and Womanist Theology and Methodology, Ecofeminism and Science, and Scripture and History. Rather than use a single common text, participants will receive readings weekly via email. Instructors include Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, who gave the prestigious Susan Draper White lecture this year at United Theological Seminary; Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, Director of the Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College and author of *Teilhard's Mysticism: Seeing the Inner face of Evolution*; and the wonderful Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, author of ten different theological books between 1990 and 2018, who will join us for two separate class sessions. Other instructors to be announced.

Dates: Monday, September 19 through Monday, December 5, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All courses will be offered in person in room G1 of the Carondelet Center (1890 Randolph Ave, St Paul MN 55105) as well as online over zoom.

11 sessions of content plus 1 final class for participant presentations (December 5)

Text: A variety of texts. Each session's text will be chosen by that presenter and will be emailed directly to those registered for the course over email the week before.

### **September 19**

#### **Module Topic: Feminist and Womanist Theologies and Methodologies**

**Specific Topic:** Chapter One: What and Why? Feminist Theologies in Three Widening Waves

**Instructor:** Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD

**Text:** *Introducing Feminist Theology*, Anne M. Clifford. Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 2001, 16-38

Hedgerow based its first course in fall 2006 around this book. Feminist theology became the backbone of Hedgerow's approach in its many courses. In Chapter One the author explores the history and various purposes for which women have developed new theologies—for abolition, suffrage, equality, liberation from oppression. The chapter introduces definitions and methods

and the pioneering women who took up the work. Women begin listening one another into speech, finding words for their experience, valuing their experience and agency.

**More resources (optional, not included in email):**

Katie G. Cannon, *Black Womanist Ethics*, "The Black Woman's Moral Situation, 1619-1900," "The Black Woman's Moral Situation in the Twentieth Century. Atlanta, Georgia, AAR Scholars Press, 1988, pp. 31-73.

Ivone Gebara, "What Scriptures are Sacred Authority? Ambiguities of the Bible in the Lives of Latin American Women," *Concilium 1998/3, Women's Sacred Scriptures*, eds. Kwok Pui-Lan and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. Maryknoll, Orbis Books, pp. 7-19. Accepted authority, imposed authority, affective authority, liberating authority.

Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *Bread Not Stone: The Challenge of Women's Biblical Interpretation*, "Toward a Feminist Model of Biblical Interpretation." Boston: Beacon Press, 1984, pp. 15-22. Her four principles of biblical interpretation.

**September 26**

**Module Topic: Feminist, Womanist, and Liberation Theologies and Methodologies**

**Specific Topic:** Chapter 2, Feminist/Womanist Perspectives on the Bible

**Instructor:** Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD

**Text: *Introducing Feminist Theology*, Anne M. Clifford. Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 2001, 56-86 132.**

Black women in America have struggled to survive the cruelty and burden of slavery, Jim Crow, and their oppressed position in society to this day. The troubles they know form the experience out of which womanist theologies develop. Alice Walker starts it, the word *womanish*. The hush harbors and Black church shape a Christian practice that sustains Black women and their men. Womanists refuse to separate racism and sexism.

**More resources (optional: not included in the email)**

Diana Hayes, "Slain in the Spirit: Black American and the Holy Spirit," pp. 11-39; "Insistent Inclusion: Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender," 123-139. *No Crystal Stair: Womanist Spirituality*. Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 2016.

Jacquelyn Grant, "Women's Experience as the Context and a Source for Doing Theology," *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*. Atlanta, Georgia, Scholars Press, 1989, pp. 9-48.

Karen Baker Fletcher, *Dancing with God, The Trinity from a Womanist Perspective*. "A Dance of the Spirit," St Louis: Chalice Press, 2006, pp.43-49.

*Ecowomanism: African American Women and Earth-Honoring Faiths*, by Melanie L. Harris. "Ecowomanism 101: Method and Approaches," pp. 13-59. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2017

### **October 3, 2022**

**Module Topic:** Feminist, Womanist, and Liberation Theologies and Methodologies

**Specific Topic:** Feminist Perspectives on God

**Instructor:** Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD

**Text:** "Triune God: Mystery of Relation," *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*, Elizabeth Johnson. New York: Crossroads Publishers, 1992. "Triune God: Mystery of Relations," pp. 191-223, especially 213-222; "One Living God: She Who Is," 224-245.

Elizabeth Johnson's work has been a major part of many Hedgerow courses. In this session, Elizabeth will join us over zoom for a portion of the class as we discuss some of her major feminist texts.

### **More resources (optional, not included in email):**

*Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God*, "Creator Spirit in the Evolving World, 181-201. "Trinity: The Living God of Love," 202-225.

*Introducing Feminist Theology*, Anne M. Clifford. Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 2001, "Feminist/Womanist Perspectives on God," 92-126.

*Women Healing Earth: Third World Women on Ecology, Feminism, and Religion*, Rosemary Radford Ruether. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.

### **October 10, 2022**

Module topic: Feminist and Womanist Theology and Methodology

Specific Topic: Embodied theology

Instructor: Andrea Pearson Tande

Text: Chapter 13 from *Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology*, by Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016).

In the fall of 2017, Hedgerow focused on the book *Goddess and God in the World* by Judith Plaskow and Carol Christ. In this book, close friends Plaskow and Christ spoke honestly with one another about how their embodied life experiences have shaped their spiritual journey.

### **October 17, 2022**

Module topic: Ecofeminism and Science

Specific Topic: Trees of Life: Ecofeminism, Eschatology and Futures that Feed Us

Instructor: Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, PhD

Texts: Catherine Keller, Chapter 7, "Down to Earth: City, Tree, Water" in *Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy, and Other Last Chances* (2021), pp. 163-194. Also, brief excerpts from

Suzanne Simard, *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* (2022); Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* (2015); and Camille T. Dungy, “From Dirt” in *Emergence Magazine* (2022). Ecofeminism and its relational cosmos has been a vibrant theme flowing throughout many Hedgerow courses. This fall, new research by forest ecologists, indigenous botanists, mycologists, regenerative farmers, and other soil celebrants invite ecofeminists and allies to reimagine edible futures “down to earth”, starting with the soil. Trees embody key roles in this vast ‘kin-dom’ of beings, where life is sustained and shared in symbiosis. Rather than escape earth, how might ecofeminism encourage practices of embracing our arboreal relations?

### **October 24, 2022**

Module topic: Ecofeminism and Science

Specific Topic: Embracing Struggle: Walking in hope with Teilhard de Chardin

Instructor: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD

Text: Excerpts from *Teilhard’s Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution* by Kathleen Duffy, SSJ (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2019) and “The Spiritual Power of Matter” by Teilhard de Chardin.

In the spring of 2015, physicist and theologian Kathleen Duffy joined us to explore mysticism with Teilhard de Chardin. This semester, she will join us again to continue the exploration of Chardin’s work. In her session description, she writes: The call to embrace struggle is not an act of resignation but a commitment to life in its fullness. During this session, we walk with Teilhard de Chardin—Jesuit, scientist, and mystic—to explore the powerful imagery in his essay, “The Spiritual Power of Matter,” to consider ways he faced life struggles, especially those related to the Church and to the World, and to reflect prayerfully on their relevance to our life and world today.

### **October 31, 2022**

Module topic: Ecofeminism and Science

Specific Topic: Science and Religion in Practice

Instructor: Taviare Hawkins, PhD

Text: TBD

In the fall of 2010, Hedgerow explored the intersections of science and religion in the lived experiences of women. Although these topics are sometimes portrayed as incompatible and pitted against one another, our life experience often tells a different story. In this session, Taviare Hawkins, Math and Sciences Division Chair at St Catherine University, speaks with us about her experience as a person of faith and a professional scientist training the next generation of leaders in the field.

### **November 7, 2022**

Module topic: Ecofeminism and Science

Specific Topic: Evolution and Theology

Instructor: Andrea Pearson Tande

Text: Chapter 1 (pages 1-18) of *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love* (New York, New York: Bloomsbury, 2014). Book VI, section 6.7 only (pages 221-226) of *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018). Both books by Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ.

In her academic works, Elizabeth Johnson often focuses on themes of ecojustice, evolution, and the interconnectedness of all creation. Hedgerow dedicated courses to exploring her books in these topics in Spring 2014 and Spring 2020. In making connections between environmental themes, feminism, and scripture, Johnson was often on the cutting edge of scholarship in Ecofeminism. In this session, Johnson will join us for a portion of the class over zoom to discuss two of her most important works in Ecofeminism.

### **November 14, 2022**

Module topic: Scripture and Church History

Specific Topic: The Interdenominational Influence of Vatican II, 60 years out

Instructor: Andrea Pearson Tande

Text: *TBD*

In the fall of 2012, Hedgerow explored the importance of Vatican II and its continuing importance in our world today on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. Now 60 years on, how does the legacy of Vatican II continue to hold importance in the Catholic Church and the world?

### **November 21, 2022**

Module topic: Scripture and Church History

Specific Topic: Women in Church History

Instructor: Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD

Text: Excerpts from Mary T. Malone's *Women & Christianity* series (three part series from Orbis Books, 2001, 2002, 2003).

In the spring of 2013 and spring of 2017, Joan Mitchell and guests explored the history of Christianity through the experiences and life stories of the women who helped shape it. Drawing on a few major figures, Joan Mitchell will revisit some of the highlights of this history and ask important questions about the presence/absence of women's voices and our continuing role in shaping the future.

### **November 28, 2022**

Module topic: Scripture and Church History

Specific Topic: Making personal connections to scripture

Instructor: Andrea Pearson Tande

Text: Chapter 6 (pages 101-118) from Emmy Kegler's *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019).

In the fall of 2019, Hedgerow participants read local ELCA pastor Emmy Kegler's book *One Coin Found*, which reflects on her experience of growing in her appreciation of scripture. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, it was difficult to claim and reframe this text that had so often been used to abuse members of this community. However, she knew that her call to church leadership meant she would have to try. In this session, we will think critically about our own journey with sacred texts and the many ways these texts are used to uplift or oppress.

**December 2, 2022**

Final class, reflection projects

It is a Hedgerow tradition to reserve the last class in each series for participants to share their reflections on the semester. This class will not present new content but rather reserve space for those who wish to share a creative project or reflection of any kind. All are welcome.