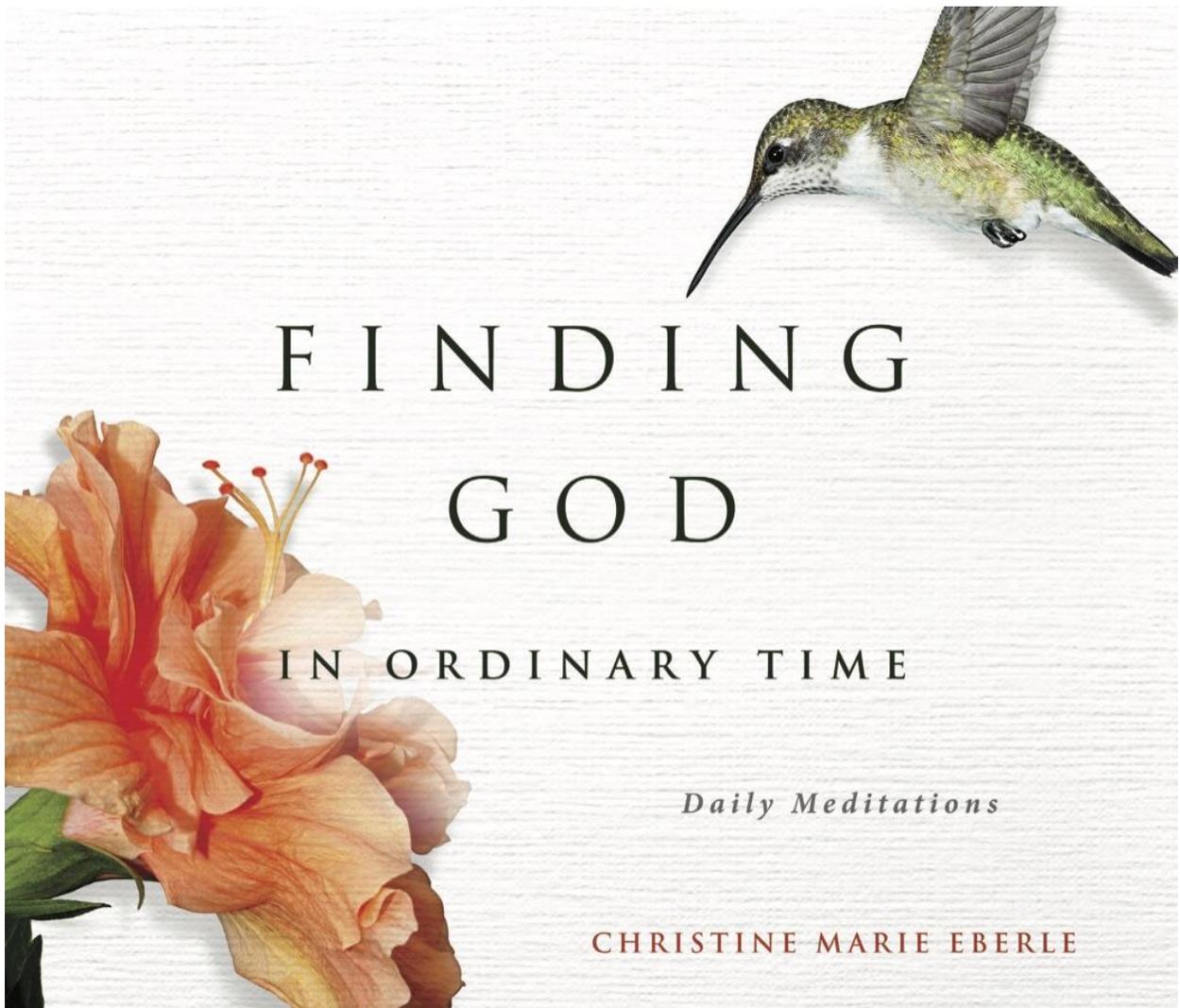


Finding God in Ordinary Time

an inspirational book by **Christine Marie Eberle**



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Take a wide-eyed look at your life—the commonplace, joyful, and even heartbreaking events—and discover the presence of God, hidden in plain sight. Forget bowing your head and closing your eyes. The secret to prayer is what happens when you're not trying to pray.

This is the invitation of Christine Eberle's *Finding God in Ordinary Time*. Each daily reflection contains a true story and a nugget of spiritual insight, accompanied by thought-provoking questions and a memorable Scripture quote. Together they reveal a God who is playful and affectionate, merciful and compassionate, and always relevant. Warm, accessible, and surprisingly funny, Christine offers spiritual nourishment to people skeptical or weary of religion, while still giving the faithful something to chew on.

Simple enough to be devoured in one sitting, this intimate little book is best enjoyed slowly. Each piece deserves to be savored and revisited through the unfolding of each ordinary, extraordinary day.

Nonfiction / religion / inspirational

\$19.95 / Paperback / 120 pages / 7 x 6 in.

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Advance Praise

"From a woman experienced in Jesuit spirituality, in work, in relationships, and in life, comes this sensitive book about finding God in the real world." —**James Martin, SJ**, author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: a Spirituality for Real Life*

"This is the perfect book for any adult in search of an adult relationship with an adult God. Filled with deep insight and humor, it will gently enliven the hearts of those who are spiritual but not religious as well as those who are religious but not spiritual. No matter the stage in your prayer journey, this lovely book will speak to you." —**Bro. Mickey McGrath**, artist, author and storyteller

"Whether you are comfortable talking to God or ambivalent about the very idea, Christine Eberle is a gentle, inviting guide through everyday encounters with the scared. *Finding God in Ordinary Time* is a lovely reminder to pay attention because spiritual lessons can found be around any corner." —**Eileen Flanagan**, author of *The Wisdom to Know the Difference*

"Ultimately, Eberle takes the reader on a mysterious journey of self-discovery, a pilgrimage of hope and an authentic adventure of the Spirit. It is a spiritual gem." —**Father Patrick Beretta**, frequent contributor to the *Huffington Post* on Philosophy, Religion and Spirituality.

About the Author



Author, public speaker, and educator Christine Eberle passionately explores the connections between Scripture, spirituality, and everyday life. A college campus minister for 25 years, Christine is currently the Director of Campus Ministry at Gwynedd Mercy University near Philadelphia. She also leads retreats, sings as a church cantor, and performs dramatic interpretations of Biblical women. In person and on the page, Christine desires both to feed the faithful and offer nourishment to people skeptical or weary of religion, insistently asking: Where is God in all this? She has found answers to this question in some surprising places, and she shares those answers--and those places--in her first book, *Finding God in Ordinary Time*.

Author socials

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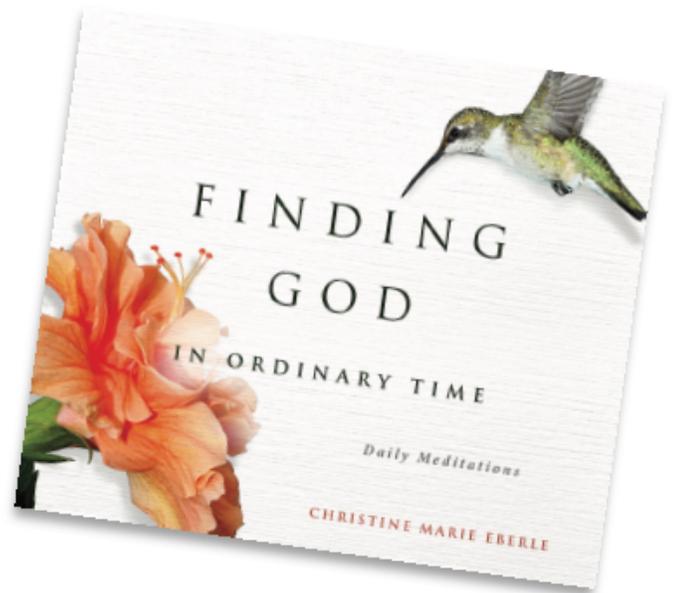
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Finding God in Ordinary Time

Christine Marie Eberle



Coming in September 2018

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"This is the perfect book for any adult in search of an adult relationship with an adult God. Filled with deep insight and humor, it will gently enliven the hearts of those who are spiritual but not religious as well as those who are religious but not spiritual. No matter the stage in your prayer journey, this lovely book will speak to you."

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Religion & Spirituality / Personal Growth / Spiritual Growth

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Christine Eberle is a passionate explorer of the connections between Scripture, spirituality, and everyday life. Her 25-year career as a college campus minister has given her countless opportunities to ask her favorite question (Where is God in all this?) and to listen for answers in surprising places. Christine is gifted public speaker, retreat leader, and church cantor. In person and on the page, she invites us to encounter a God who has infinite compassion for people in pain, but little time for pious platitudes. She currently serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Gwynedd Mercy University near Philadelphia, PA. You can follow her at christine-marie-eberle.com.

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Media & Appearances

Tuesday, September 18

Talk / reading / book signing, St. Monica RC Church, Berwyn, PA

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.

Launch Party at The Open Book Bookstore, Elkins Park

Saturday, September 22: Hawkfest

Saturday, 9/22: Book signing at campus Barnes & Noble 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, 9/22: Speaking, book signing after 5 p.m. Alumni Mass

Sunday, 9/23: Speaking, book signing at Campus Ministry Alumni lunch following 11:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday, 9/27, 10:00 a.m.

Talk / reading / book signing, Gwynedd Mercy University (part of Mercy Week celebration)

Saturday, 10/6, 5:15 p.m.

Reading / Signing / Reception at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Germantown (Philadelphia)

Book signing the following day after 9:00 & 11:00 Masses

Friday-Saturday, October 12-13

Exhibiting at "Future with Hope" Conference, Alexandria, VA

Sunday, October 21, 2:00 p.m.

Public reading and book signing

Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, PA

Saturday, October 27, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friends of the Newman Center 5th Annual Celebration, West Chester, PA

Guest Speaker, Book Sales & Signing

Finding God in Ordinary Time

an inspirational book **Sneak Preview**

Part One

Awake to See

The heavens declare the glory of God, Psalm 19 proclaims. If you have ever seen the stars on a clear night beyond the reach of light pollution, you know what this means.

I will never forget the first time I went camping. Grumbling my way out of the tent for a 3 a.m. call of nature (pun intended), I was stunned into silence by the beauty that awaited me just outside the canvas flap. Had the earth relocated? Surely, the stars had never been this bright, or this close, or this many? If I were interviewing God for the job of Creator and said, “Can I see a sample of your work?” this would have been the ideal thing to pull from the divine portfolio.

When the Bible is confusing, the denominational voices conflicting, and the inner wisdom fleeting, just go outside. Want to know how God feels about diversity? Look at a field of wildflowers. Wonder if God has a sense of humor? Consider the pelican. Not really sure you get this whole resurrection business? Notice the determined shoots of the first flowers of spring, pushing through the frozen ground of winter’s last stand.

With God’s fingerprints all over it, nature is an endless source of spiritual insight.

Chapter 1

Finding God in the Morning Sky

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let the name of the LORD be praised.

— Psalm 113:3

I love a complicated sunrise. Whether I'm on retreat by myself or at the beach with my family, I always want to watch the sun come up. If I oversleep (which my relatives call "getting up at a normal time for a person on vacation"), I arise well rested but vaguely disappointed. *How was the sunrise this morning? What did I miss?*

When I join my extended family each August for a week at the Jersey shore, mornings find me on my uncle's deck with coffee in hand, watching the sun come up over the ocean. With the exception of rainy days, every sunrise is unique and glorious, but the complicated ones are the best.

On a perfectly clear day, the sun will simply appear; but on a cloudy morning, I can discern its progress only by the effect it has on the world around it. The drama begins long before the sun reaches the horizon. Low-hanging clouds lit from below begin to glow. As the sun progresses upward, the colors are straight out of a thesaurus: not just pink, purple, and orange, but crimson, scarlet, violet, amethyst, and vermillion. A tiny break appears in the clouds and the sun dazzles through, making the sea sparkle, and the ocean changes hue as if touched by a magic wand. The sun disappears just as quickly, lighting the tops of the lower clouds as it ascends. Then the whole beach brightens and the fog begins to lift, revealing the big rollercoaster on the boardwalk three miles away. Seagulls exult; sometimes dolphins break the surface as if they don't want to miss the show, either.

Morning has arrived. I am grateful each time I am awake to see it.

I love a complicated sunrise for the same reason I love my job in college campus ministry. Just as the sun is rendered more beautiful by its effect on the clouds, God's glory shines most clearly when it touches the shadowed parts of people's lives.

A timid student begins to glow in the warmth of a faith community. Foggy lack of direction gives way to the illuminated path of a discovered call. God's healing power touches broken places—disappointments, abuses, failures, betrayals—and renders hearts stronger than they were before. People in pain discover that the darkness in their lives does not have to stay dark, and when God's light reaches those troubled crevices, they are transformed from sources of shame into radiant signs of the divine.

Morning arrives in its own way for each one, as clouds give way to light. I am grateful each time I am awake to see it.

The next time you are able to pray during sunrise, let images of your own life's transformations wash over you. Can you perceive how God may have been at work in you, even in your darkest times?