Christ in Evolution: Challenges and New Directions

Theology has been linked to cosmology for centuries and the core principles of Christian doctrine are based on a particular cosmology of the past. Modern science, especially evolution and quantum physics, has ushered in a new cosmology and our challenge today is to find coherence between our religious beliefs and the new cosmos. Since Christianity rests on the Incarnation, we will seek to explore the meaning of Jesus Christ in an evolutionary universe and the significance of Christ in evolution for the future direction of Christian life.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SR. ILIA DELIO holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Fordham University. Prior to joining the Woodstock Theological Center of Georgetown University full-time as a Senior Research Fellow, she served as Chair and Professor in the Department of Spirituality Studies at the Washington Theological Union, where she also served as Director of Franciscan Studies. Her current research interests in the field of science & religion include divine action, emergence, evolution, art, and artificial intelligence. She has served on the Board of Directors of Metanexus, the Advisory Board of AAAS-DoSER (Dialogue on Sciences Ethics and Religion), and the editorial board of Theology and Science. Her books include Christ in Evolution: Challenges and New Directions. She developed and taught a nine-week course, Evolutionary transformation has always been at the heart of Quakerism. Surrender of the self-centered will to God’s will eventually leads to becoming “partakers of the divine nature.”

THE EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF QUAKERISM

Evolutionary transformation has always been at the heart of Quakerism. Surrender of the self-centered will to God’s will eventually leads to becoming “partakers of the divine nature.” This workshop will present an overview of the journey of transformation, often described as the birth of Christ within. An experiential opportunity will invite participants to consider how to engage more whole-heartedly in the process. There will be time for reflection, journal writing, and sharing experiences with others.

Marcelle Martin has served as Pendle Hill’s Quaker Studies teacher and traveled widely among Friends leading retreats on Quaker spirituality. Author of three pamphlets, including Invitation to a Deeper Communion, she is ESR’s spring 2013 Mullen Writing Fellow.

SACRED GEOMETRY: DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL PATTERNS AND SYMBOLS IN NATURE

“The beautiful is a manifestation of the secret laws of nature... When nature begins to reveal her secret to a person, he feels an irresistible longing for her most worthy interpreter, art.”

— Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Geometric shapes and patterns occur in nature from the smallest, microscopic level to the largest cosmic scale that we can imagine. This geometry, which is observable everywhere we look, can be considered sacred because it is a beautiful expression of the Creator, and provides visible evidence of divine structure, order, balance and harmony in the design of our universe. In this workshop we will discover some of the basic principles of sacred geometry by looking at examples from nature, engaging in creative art and writing exercises, and reflecting together on the spiritual meanings that can be derived from symbols and patterns in the natural world.

Carol Sexton is a visual artist and an ESR graduate from the class of 2001. While a student at ESR, she began to investigate the connections between the arts and spirituality. Helping others to grow spiritually through creative art activities has been a primary focus of her ministry since that time. Carol has worked as a freelance artist, a retreat and workshop leader, a spiritual director, a campus minister at Earlham College, and an arts and spirituality teacher at Pendle Hill. She recently moved back to Richmond, Indiana and is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.
The registration fee covers the day-long event, which includes the keynote address, two workshops, a continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Vegetarian options will be available.

Workshop One preference (first & second choice)
- Conversation with Ilia Delio
- Listening to the Skies – Jennie Kiffmeyer
- Imaginary Christ – Matt Hirsch
- The Evolutionary Nature of Quakerism – Marcelle Martin
- Face to Face with Jesus – Pat DeWitt-Thomas
- Sacred Geometry – Carol Sexton

Workshop Two preference (first & second choice)
- Listening to the Skies – Jennie Kiffmeyer
- Imaginary Christ – Matt Hirsch
- The Evolutionary Nature of Quakerism – Marcelle Martin
- Face to Face with Jesus – Pat DeWitt-Thomas
- Sacred Geometry – Carol Sexton