

CANA eLetter JULY 2025

Where is God in all this turbulence?



Contents

Where is God in all the turmoil? – Janice Dolley

Where is God in all this turbulence? – Don MacGregor

Where is God in all this turbulence? – Judy Hanmer

Psalm 139 plus comment – Jane Upchurch

Where is God in all this turbulence? - Carol Beck

Where is God in all this turbulence? – Bill Upchurch

A way of wisdom for today – CANA team

Book Review: *The unveiled Christos* by David Spangler reviewed by Jane Upchurch

Upcoming CANA events

Introduction

'Where is God in all this turbulence?' How do you respond to this question, this quote? What do you think God's role is in all the turbulence we are experiencing across our planet at the moment? How does this affect your view of God? If you are uncomfortable with the term 'God', how would you frame and answer this in the light of your spiritual understanding? Do you have a spiritual practice that helps you/others/the planet at this time? How would you communicate understanding and hope to someone who is struggling with the turbulence and change? Here are some answers, do share yours with us.

We call the Ultimate Reality 'God'. Jesus would have used the Aramaic term 'Alaha' which is more verb than noun or object, as is YHWH, the name given for God in the Old Testament. Alaha has roots in 'yes' and 'no' so includes all things and nothingness. This means it is beyond the polarities and opposites that we see. It is, God is, ultimate reality is, a dynamic field of unity giving rise to and infusing all.

Jane Upchurch. *The Bones of Love; The Way of Jesus.*

Where is God in all the turmoil?
Janice Dolley



A short answer to the question 'Where is God in the present turmoil' is that the present turmoil is the opposite of the Creator's plan for this beautiful world in which the human species has been gifted free will and the opportunity to contribute to the restoration of a world of love, beauty, goodness, and truth. But just as we cannot appreciate light without the contrast of dark, we are faced with the opposite.

Finding ourselves engulfed in a materialistic worldview, actively promoted by those who seek power and control in a world where God is dismissed as a childhood fantasy, we could say we are in the middle of WW3, which the scientist and philosopher Gregg Braden and others term 'a battle for the soul of humanity'.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

'Where is God in all this turbulence?'

Don MacGregor



For me, this question raises the issue of what our understanding of 'God' is. We are currently in a period of rebirthing our image of 'God'. In the preface to a new book by Anne Baring, "Divine Wisdom and the Holy Spirit: The Forgotten Feminine Face of God", she writes this:

“God, or Spirit, or Divine Mind, so long projected onto a transcendent male creator remote from the world, is not something distant from us. Quantum Physics shows us that we participate in a Cosmic Consciousness or Intelligence which is co-inherent with every atom of our being and every particle of matter. At the sub-atomic level, everything is connected with everything else. The entire Creation, visible and invisible, is One Life. Divinity is within us as well as around us... (This insight) is precisely what has been missing in our concept of God...We are moving from the story of a dead, insentient universe to a New Story of a universe that is vibrantly alive and the primary ground of our own consciousness.”

[Click here to read the rest](#)

Where is God in all this turbulence?

Judy Hanmer



To answer this question I have first to think about what God represents for me personally: Well, he is definitely not an old man in the sky, shaking his fist at us and telling us we will go to hell if we don't obey all the rules set out in the Bible. If one studies the Bible closely there are all sorts of contradictions as to the right way to do things and our churches have selected a few and set them in concrete with little scope for debate.

There are many references in the Bible to God as Spirit, but as the philosopher Carl Jung says in his *Red Book* this God is to be found in the Spirit of the Depths rather than the Spirit of our Times – something outside our conception of time and space and everyday living, and yet personal at the same time – a paradox.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

Psalm 139



This Psalm has been a source of comfort for many when facing troubled times. It asserts that there is nowhere outside of God's presence, so we can find God whatever we are facing. But that is also a challenge for David's theology, and for many following after, as it assumes that if this is so, God should be 'slaying the wicked' (vs19). Whenever I have heard this read aloud, the reader usually omits this penultimate section as if it jars with the rest, but in fact it is fully in accord with this view of God as a righteous being that would surely take this action. If, as other contributors have said, 'God' is the energy or spirit of love and life that sourced and fills the cosmos, then there is a permanent framework or invitation or gift for any and all of us to align with this presence and to choose the way of love. So our response to troubled times is not to blame and hate the perpetrators and perceive that as being righteous, but rather to measure ourselves, as David says in the last verses here.

Jane Upchurch

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

Where is God in all this turbulence?

Carol Beck

As you read this prayer, you may wish to translate 'God' into words that fit into your personal experience of this all-infusing energy or spirit.

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

While I was pondering on the title above, this hymn or prayer came back to me in a very alive way. Its meaning is deeply embedded in my heart and daily is all important to me, for myself, other loved ones, or others that I know; and as I experience the society around me or when listening to the 'news'. It is a way daily for me to be open to this life-giving Source. So when hearing or experiencing acts of unconditional loving kindness, generosity, courage, justice, self-sacrifice.... they express the qualities of the Divine. Surely, however small, these signs must be helping to counter the very distressing turbulence.

Where is God in all this turbulence

Bill Upchurch



I have struggled with many of the aspects of turbulence that we have been experiencing. For me, one of the most critical has been climate change. In 2022 I launched a web site called Climate Change Info (What individuals and households can do to make a difference). Recently I have reduced the amount of research I was doing as it has become too depressing with the unexplained rapid rise in the temperatures of the oceans etc. There is however encouraging news with China's use of fossil fuels now dropping.

A major turbulence in our lives has been the war on the border of Europe in Ukraine. To me from the moment it started with Europe having had so many years of peace, I was thinking 'How can a country like Russia do such a thing?'. So, this has challenged the sense of peace within me. This has been added to by the war in Gaza and now the war in Iran. Brian McLaren's book *'Life After Doom – Wisdom and*

Courage for a World Falling Apart' says ...'People feel that human civilization has passed a tipping point and that the tide of doom is inexorably rising'.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

A Way of Wisdom for Today

CANA core team

These days it is so easy to get caught up in our physical selves and daily lives that we tend to forget there is also an unseen dimension of Spirit emanating from the Supreme Source of all life that has created our world in love. Many call this God. Love of ourselves and love of all our relationships is what brings us life and enables us to live in kindness, compassion and goodwill for all.

We now know that all is energy and thus there are many dimensions of being in a world where everything and everyone are deeply interconnected. Raising our awareness of this One Life is available to all; our potential for creativity and collaboration are far greater than we often realise. We live within an intelligent universe that will respond to our thoughts and requests, so can align ourselves with a collective endeavour, trusting that a new era is possible and working with others to bring this into being.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

Book Reviews – Jane Upchurch



David Spangler. *The Unveiled Christos*. Lorian Press LLC. 2025

This is a slim but powerful book looking at what Christ means in general terms, and for us personally. It is particularly relevant for us at CANA as David integrates this with the person and work of Jesus. Here are a few quotes:

The usual cosmological view is that the Manifest emerges from the Unmanifest, that God creates the cosmos, that the universe emanates forth from a primal source which is beyond all human understanding, since the finite cannot understand nor encompass the infinite.

I share this usual view up to a point. But my understanding and experience is that the Ultimate Source, Ground of Being, Unmanifest, Creator etc (whatever term you like), does not create in the same sense that a potter would make a pot or an artist a painting or a writer a novel. It doesn't 'make' something. Rather it becomes something. It is an act of incarnation, of taking on a different form or more precisely, expressing as a different form.

[Click here to read the rest](#)

UPCOMING CANA EVENTS

LUGHNASADH SACRED SPACE



**A CANA Online Gathering (COSS)
11.00-12.00 Wednesday 6th August**

Lughnasadh (1st August) is one of the Celtic cross-quarter festivals between the solstices and equinoxes. It is sometimes called Lammastide, a festival that celebrated bringing in the grain harvest. It is a time of community festivity and of honouring the earth mother giving birth to her harvest child, the grain.

This is an on-line ritual, an opportunity to engage with Spirit and with our own divine centre communally. It is not a eucharist, there is no wine, no blessing from a priest, no Christian liturgy. But it does seek to embody some of the essence of the eucharist experience in creating a sacred space of communion but within a wider framework.

Please email Bill at admin@cana.org.uk if you would like to participate

CANA CONSCIOUS CONVERSATIONS (CCC)

10.30-12.30 Saturday 4th October on zoom



(Picture courtesy of Nina O'Connell)

**Simon Cross is speaking
about the Progressive Christian Network (PCN)
and what it can offer.**

Please email Bill at admin@cana.org.uk if you would like to participate

CONTACT US

We link together every **Full Moon** to build a pathway to Universal Spirituality, aware of the particular energies at that time. We link together every **New Moon** with a focus on Praying for the Planet, a day we particularly remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement with love, hope and gratitude.

If you would like to receive the emails for either of these, email info@cana.org.uk

DONATIONS

CANA operates on a gift economy so if you would like to contribute and do not already, then contact us (see below) and we will send details, or go to the page on our website [Donate](#)

To make your own suggestions on this topic, or any other comments, please email info@cana.org.uk, ring Jane or Bill on 01895 639476 or write to them at 20 Manor Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 7LB.

*May love and light fill your life and our world
bringing healing and wholeness*

CANA (*Christians Awakening to New Awareness*) is a network of people responding to the new impulse of Spirit at this time, companions on the way. Many of us recognise its resonance with the teachings of Jesus as a way of transformation. Our hope is to rediscover and re-imagine a path leading towards a more universal spirituality that can operate with respect for all living creatures and all faiths, a path of love and service for the betterment of all. This is not just about the transformation of the individual, but the global shift of humanity to a higher way of being and of love that Jesus termed 'the realm of God'.

www.cana.org.uk