



Learn More About...

# The Universe Story

An Annotated Bibliography

- Science
- Spirituality, Prayer and Reflection
- Theology
- Practical Applications

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues that are part of the universe story.

## Websites

- *An Extraordinary Moment* <<http://www.globalcommunity.org/flash/ex.shtml#1>>  
An Extraordinary Moment traces our human story from the big bang to our present day. It reminds us all that we are part of a very long, rich history and that each one of us contributes a unique gift to that history. **Highly recommended as a good place to begin.**
- *The Great Story* <<http://www.thegreatstory.org/home.html>>  
This web site tells the story of the emergence of the universe. It also opens up the beauty of the story and why it is called "Great." It makes available sections on parables about the earth story, rituals, songs, quotes of well known speakers and writers, evolutionary Christianity, enriching all faiths, videos and resources. It is creatively presented by its main authors, Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. **A great place to begin and continue.**
- *Mysteries of Deep Space* <<http://www.pbs.org/deepspace/timeline>>  
This site offers an interactive time line from the "Big Bang" to trillions of years into the future. It focuses on the emergence and vastness of everything in space. **A good place to start to deepen an appreciation of the vastness of the universe.**
- *Rainforest Information Center* <<http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/welcome.htm>>  
The Rainforest Information Center website includes numerous articles and creative actions on deep ecology. **A good place to explore thoughts and rituals about the universe story.**
- *Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia – How Earth Friendly Are You? A Guide for Evaluating Our Lifestyle* <[http://www.osfphila.org/justice\\_peace/eco\\_audit](http://www.osfphila.org/justice_peace/eco_audit)>

Each evaluation includes ten questions to help you assess your current lifestyle. The first questionnaire contains general questions on a range of topics followed by tips for living more lightly, resources for learning, and questions for reflection, discussion, and action.

- *The Three Eyes of the Universe* <<http://www.threeeyesofuniverse.org/>>  
The Three Eyes of the Universe is an on-line educational learning center for “learning and living” the universe story and offers, on-line and at home earth literacy courses, information on the “pioneers” of the Universe Story and several versions of the cosmic walk. **A good place to explore the Cosmic Walk.**
- *A Walk Through Time* <[http://www.globalcommunity.org/wtt/walk\\_menu/index.html](http://www.globalcommunity.org/wtt/walk_menu/index.html)>  
Imagine taking a one-mile walk where every step transports you a million years in time! *A Walk Through Time ... from stardust to us* takes you on just such a journey. In a series of 90 panels of text and illustrations, this innovative on-line version of the traveling exhibit tells the story of life's five-billion-year evolution. **An excellent place to explore the Cosmic Walk online.**

## Art and Music

- *All Our Relations*. Prod. Jan Phillips, 2003  
Video prayer with text and images by Jan Phillips.  
“ . . . Blessed be the earth, your holy womb  
from which we rise and shall return  
Your mountains, valleys, jeweled mines.  
Your forest ferns and jungle vines . . . ”
- Novotka, Jan, *Together in the Great Work*. Compact disc. Sept. 2004; *Melodies of the Universe: Songs and Chants*. Compact disk. 1998; *In the Name of ALL THAT IS*. Compact disk. Jan has a fourth CD, *Ever Ancient, Ever New* available June, 2006 she cut with some other exciting musicians.  
<[www.jannovotka.com](http://www.jannovotka.com)>  
Jan Novotka's music celebrates the presence of the sacred in creation and articulates concern for planet Earth.
- *The Universe Canticle* <[http://www.faithfulfools.org/kopanang\\_gallery\\_1.htm](http://www.faithfulfools.org/kopanang_gallery_1.htm)>  
The Kopanang Women's Group of Geluksdal, South Africa created 31 embroidered textiles for the Faithful Fools in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2002. The work depicts the mystery of creation in strong simplicity and energy.

## Videos/DVDs

- *The Awakening Universe*, Prod. Neil Rogin, 2006

Based on the book, *The Universe Story* by Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, this beautiful and inspiring fifteen minute film shows how science, spirit and ancient indigenous wisdom are now all converging to reveal that we stand in the very heart of that which created us. An entirely new context for human life is arising in our lifetime, with the potential to transform forever our sense of separation, isolation and alienation into one of connection, commonality and communion.

**Highly recommended as a good place to begin.**

- *Canticle to the Cosmos*, Prod. Center for the Story of the Universe, 1990  
Canticle to the Cosmos, a 12-part series, tells the scientific story of the Universe with a feeling for its sacred nature. Cosmologist Brian Swimme's synthesis of scientific insights provides a new interpretation of the human in the Universe and the Earth community. **A good place to continue exploring the cosmos with a gifted teacher.**
- *Cosmic Voyage*. Prod. National Air and Space Museum, 1996  
Shot in the mind-blowing IMAX process, this combined live-action and computer-generated production has an immensity of scope befitting its grand subject. Beginning in Italy's magnificent Venice, *Cosmic Voyage* draws inspiration from airborne perspectives on the city's famed network of canals and streets, leading to further appreciations of dense systems in nature. From the sub-nuclear to the physical limits of the known universe, *Cosmic Voyage* explores a resonance between all things while making sense of such inscrutable phenomena as the birth of stars and planets, black holes, supernovas, etc.
- *The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos*. Prod. Center for the Story of the Universe, 1996  
Brian Swimme's 80-minute presentation on the role of the human in the emergent universe includes "The Generosity of the Sun," "Birthplace of the Universe," and "The All-Nourishing Abyss." Swimme has a rare gift for integrating science with a sense of the sacred. This video opens up not only the insights from science about the birth of the universe but also how these insights can help to transform our lives. **A good place to begin.**
- *The Unfolding Story*. Prod. Foundation for Global Community, 1993  
In this program, scientists, authors, religious leaders, native people and other visionaries relate the story that is now unfolding of an interconnected, interdependent living universe.

## Periodicals

- Science and Spirit <[www.science-spirit.org](http://www.science-spirit.org)>  
This magazine covers the broader field of scientific and spiritual thought to foster awareness and dialogue among an interfaith audience. **Good for both general and scholarly audiences.**
- World Watch Magazine  
<[http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category\\_Code=Mag](http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category_Code=Mag)>  
Internationally recognized, this bi-monthly magazine of the World Watch Institute allows readers to keep up-to-speed on the latest developments in population growth, climate change, species extinction, and the rise of new forms of human behavior and governance.
- Yes! A Journal of Positive Futures <[www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org)>

This magazine provides hopeful stories of the innovations and people addressing the critical challenges of our times. Reading it will connect you to others who believe and act to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

## Articles and Papers

- Brager, Dee, et. al. Special Series on Science and Art in *Science and Spirit Magazine* July/August 2004. (“In the Eye of the Beholder,” p.43; ““Small Wonders,” pp. 49-53; “The Divine is in the Details,” pp 54-57; “The Art of the Matter,” pp. 58-61) <[http://www.science-spirit.org/archive\\_04-05.html](http://www.science-spirit.org/archive_04-05.html)>  
In this expanded summer issue, Science and Spirit brings an in-depth look at art from a microscopic perspectives, tracing its origins in the world in which we live and its relationship to our spiritual development. Art and Science walked the same path until parting company at the time of the Renaissance. Unless they reconcile their differences, we may never understand the mystery of quantum reality or the strange role we play in our observations of the world.
- Johnson, Elizabeth, CSJ. “Turn to the Heavens and the Earth: Retrieval of the Cosmos in Theology.” Presidential Address: Proceedings of the Catholic Theological Society of America 51 (1996): 1-14.
- Milner, Richard et. al. “Intelligent Design?” *Natural History Magazine*, April 2002, <<http://www.actionbioscience.org/evolution/nhmag.html>>  
In this article, six scientists address intelligent design and evolution. It has links to more on contributing authors, Educators Resources, Learn-more links, an original lesson plan and a link to get the Spanish translation. The article offers brief position statements by three leading proponents of the theory, along with three responses.
- Ward, Keith, “The Quantum Leap” *The Tablet*, 2 April 2005, p. 5. <<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/article/1463>>  
In this article, Ward brings together science and the Resurrection with new insights gleaned from modern science. He states, “Modern science enables us to see the Resurrection not as contrary to reason but as an intelligent possibility in the ‘multiverse’ where lives take many forms.
- Worcelo, Gail, OP. “Holy Ground: Where Catholic Tradition and the Universe Story Meet.” *The Great Story*, <<http://www.thegreatstory.org/Catholic.pdf>>  
This essay is her enriched version of a short piece, “Discovering the Divine Within the Universe,” which appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of *EarthLight* magazine.

## Books

- Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way Into the Future* (New York: Bell Tower, 1999).  
One of the basic texts for understanding The New Story of the Universe. **Any audience.**
- Berry, Thomas and Brian Swimme. *The Universe Story: From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era: A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos* (NY: HarperCollins, 1992).

Physicist Swimme and cultural historian Berry here examine and synthesize a vast body of knowledge and hypothesis from the fields of astronomy, physics, biology, anthropology, and history. Their book presents a fascinating exploration of Earth's history and, in richly evocative language, paints a picture of the evolution of the universe as a tremendous, ongoing creative activity. **Mid and advanced level.**

- Bruteau, Beatrice. *God's Ecstasy: The Creation of a Self Creating the World* (NY: Crossroad, 1997)  
This book captures the beauty and complexity of God's evolving manifestation through vignettes from physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, economics and politics. **More challenging.**
- Cannato, Judy. *Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas, and Other Wonders of the Universe* (Notre Dame, Indiana: Sorin Books, 2006).  
Our understanding of the universe has undergone a revolution in our lifetime. We are challenged to rethink and reshape our relationship to the divine in ways that resonate with the new discoveries about creation. Includes contemplative exercises.
- Coelho, Mary Conrow. *Awakening Universe: Emerging Personhood* (Lima, OH: Wyndham Hall, 2002).  
This book is Coelho's creative synthesis of science and spirituality which guides readers through contemplation of the cultural and spiritual significance of contemporary science. **A good place to begin.**
- Conlon, James. *At The Edge of Our Longing: Unspoken Hunger for Sacredness and Depth* (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2004)  
This book is an invitation to embark on a common journey to melt into our consciousness a cosmic awareness that draws courage from each other and enchantment from creation as we open ourselves to the surging miracle of life. **Good place to begin.**
- Coyne, George V. and Alessandro Omizzolo. *Wayfarers in the Cosmos: The Human Quest for Meaning* (New York: Crossroad, 2002).  
Two Vatican astronomers "use the lens of faith to show how what we know of the universe harmonizes with what we know about God." Big print. Big ideas. Great read.
- Dowd, Michael. *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World* (Tulsa, OK: Council Oak Books, 2007)  
With supporters from an incredibly wide spectrum of backgrounds and beliefs, including five Nobel laureates, *Thank God for Evolution* builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for humanity and the body of life as a whole. *Thank God for Evolution* presents in a lively and accessible manner the reasons why it is now possible to view evolution as a divine process; how current science shows that evolution is not meaningless blind chance; practical methods for using evolutionary insights to achieve greater personal fulfillment and thriving relationships; and how aligning with evolutionary trends can guide activists and others hoping to make our world a better place.
- Edwards, Denis. *Ecology at the Heart of Faith* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006).  
Many Christians accept care of creation as God's will, yet fail to see their actions as discipleship with Jesus. Connecting the living memory of Jesus with the issues that confront the global community is essential if ecological action is to be seen "not only as ethically responsible but also as radically Christian." Edwards shares his vision of actions and attitudes that could result from a

widespread conversion to this radical Christianity, carried out in all aspects of daily life as well as through public witness by the church. Among other changes, he sees a critical challenge to current economic and political practices and acceptance of the reality that resources of earth are finite and "current Western consumption patterns...bring death and destruction to other species in our planetary community life. "Edwards also addresses writings on the future of the world by theologians Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Karl Rahner and an ecological theology of the Eucharist.

- Edwards, Denis. *Jesus and the Cosmos* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2004)  
Using the theology of Karl Rahner, Edwards combines both contemporary cosmological perspectives and theological responses to contemporary ecological crisis into a theology. This cosmos is created, sustained, and empowered by God in whom it has its unity. Human persons are the self-consciousness of the cosmos, which reaches its supreme self-transcendence in Jesus who is also God's self-communication to the cosmos. This theology "supports a social ethics which combines care for the Earth with solidarity for the poor of the Earth" and "commits us to seeing economic oppression, sexism and racism as intrinsically inter-related with the violation of our planet."
- English, John, S.J., Lois Zachariah and Kuruvila Zachariah. "Twenty-four Spiritual Exercises for the New Story of Universal Communion" in *Progressio* Supplement #57, (Rome, Italy: World Christian Life Community, November 2002).  
This book invites readers to reflect on the various facets of the Ignatian Exercises in light of the communion of all of creation. Various aspects of the Christian tradition are integrated with the Story of the Universe. This book offers help to those who want to make or to help others to make an abbreviated form of the Exercises and to those who desire to study ways that the sacred story of creation impacts our understanding of the message of Scripture. E-mail: [mcvx.wclc@agora.it](mailto:mcvx.wclc@agora.it).
- Global Education Associates Upper Midwest. *An Amazing Journey! The Universe and Me: Readings and Discussion Guide on the Universe Story* (St. Paul, MN: Global Education Associates Upper Midwest, 2004). <<http://www.goodgroundpress.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=49>>  
This collection of excerpts from major works of Thomas Berry and others is presented in a format that lends itself easily to small group study and prayer with an easy-to-read format for the general audience. **A good place to begin.**
- Haught, John F. *Responses to 101 Questions on God and Evolution* (New York: Paulist Press, 2001).  
Haught's book has an inviting format and is easy to read. **A good place to begin.**
- Haught, John. *God after Darwin: A Theology of Evolution* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000).  
A must read in light of the faith questions and politics raised by science and religion in our time. Theological and challenging with a good group study text.
- Martignacco, Carole. Illustrated by Joy Troyer. *The Everything Seed: A Story of Beginnings* (Edina, MN: Beaver's Pond Press, 2003).  
A book for all ages, this exquisitely illustrated book tells the story of the unfolding of the very first seed, the story of our beginnings. **Good for children – and adults.**
- Moorwood, Michael. *Praying a New Story* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004).  
This little book of prayers helps one know God as a sustaining Presence in all, God alive in Earth and present with us everywhere and always.

- Morgan, Jennifer. Illustrated by Dana Lynne Andersen. (*Sharing Nature with Children Book Series*) *Born With a Bang, Book One: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story* (Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2002). *From Lava to Life, Book Two: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story* (Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2003). *Mammals Who Morph: The Universe Tells Our Evolution Story* (Sept. 2006)

This story of the Universe is told in the first person by the Universe. Powerful illustrations, a timeline of triumphs in the Universe's life, a glossary and a resource section contribute to making these books good resources. <[www.universestories.com](http://www.universestories.com)>

- ● Rupp, Joyce. Artwork by Mary Southard. *The Cosmic Dance: An Invitation to Experience Our Oneness* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books 2002).

This is a beautiful book of art, which accompanies Joyce Rupp's reflections on the unity of all creation. Quotes from writers such as Rachael Carson, Annie Dillard, Teilhard de Chardin and Henri Nouwen enhance the beauty. The reader experiences the oneness of all of life through reflections on the elements, the seasons, the Heavens, the Earth, creatures, people, pain and destruction and hope. **Enriching for all.**

- Singh, Simon. *Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*, (New York: Harper Collins, 2004).

Simon Singh explains why cosmologists believe that the Big Bang is an accurate description of the origin and evolution of the universe. Using good illustrations and diagrams he explores the scientific methods that bring us to hard science, with his impressive gift of explaining extremely difficult physics. **An excellent science resource for anyone.**

- Susskind, Leonard. *The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design*, (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006).

Susskind addresses the fundamental debate in both contemporary science and the wider culture: Is the delicate fine-tuning which makes human life possible a result of chance or design? He includes many excellent diagrams and uses analogies and metaphors to assist with understanding these concepts. The author has contributed tremendously to the development of string theories. Here, in *The Cosmic Landscape*, he offers a clear vision to this fundamental debate over one of the fundamental theories of modern science. **Mid to advanced.**

- Toolan, David. *At Home in the Cosmos*. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001)

Toolan, associate editor of *America* magazine, surveys the rapprochement between religion and science, not for its own sake but to illuminate questions of environmental responsibility: How should we understand humanity's place in the world and our role in valuing and protecting the natural order? In assembling his sources, Toolan draws from scientists, theologians and environmental writers. (*Publishers' Weekly*)

- ● Vaney, Neil, SM. *Christ in a Grain of Sand: An Ecological Journey with the Spiritual Exercises* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2004).

Neil Vaney, SM takes an innovative approach to the Exercises inviting readers to look for Christ in all things and to find him everywhere, even in a grain of sand. The reader and retreatant look at

many aspects of our Christian faith with an awareness of the intimate bond between spirituality and the natural world.

- Wessels, Cletus. *Jesus in the New Universe Story* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2003).  
How do we understand our Christian story through the lens of the New Story of the Universe?  
**Mid to advanced.**

## Other Resources

- Celebrating Creation Prayer Beads  
The “Celebrating Creation” prayer beads encourage us to “give glory and praise to our God, who made the heavens and earth.” At this time in our planetary history, it is vital to our survival on this Earth to bring a concern for all of nature into our daily, spiritual life. These prayer beads may be one way to deepen our sense of oneness with the whole earth community and empower us to make necessary changes for the survival of all in God’s creation. To order Earth Care prayer beads contact <[earthcareministry@prodigy.net](mailto:earthcareministry@prodigy.net)>
- Great Story Beads <[http://thegreatstory.org/great\\_story\\_beads.html](http://thegreatstory.org/great_story_beads.html)>  
Great Story Beads represent symbolically the 13 + billion year epic of the Cosmos, Earth and all life on it, told as a sacred story that embraces all other sacred stories. This site also has a reference to the Cosmic Rosary. Both offer creative experiences of the evolving universe and a sense of its sacredness.
- Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway <<http://www.amnh.org/rose/cosmicpathway.html>>  
The Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway, a gently sloping 360-foot walkway that leads visitors on an exploration of 13 billion years of cosmic evolution, winds one and one-half times around the Hayden Sphere in the Rose Center for Earth and Space. The Cosmic Pathway illustrates the development of our universe, using a range of media.
- Orbis Earth Balls <<http://www.earthball.com/>>  
Orbis is the original creator of photorealistic Earth Balls and giant world globes -visually authentic replicas of our planet. From 1 to 100 feet in diameter, these 'reality globes' make attractive displays for museums, libraries, tradeshow, and festivals.
- Rose Center for Earth and Space in New York City – Cullman Hall of the Universe  
<<http://www.context.org/ICLIB/IC12/Prescott.htm>>  
The Cullman Hall of the Universe is a permanent exhibition hall on the lower level of the Rose Center that illuminates the stunning discoveries of modern astrophysics. The hall examines such questions as how the universe evolved into galaxies, stars, and planets, and how the atoms from which we are made were created in the hearts of stars. Designed as a rich interpretive environment, this Hall is also the site of hands-on, interactive exhibits and extensive educational programming.
- The Galaxy Song <<http://dingo.care2.com/cards/flash/5409/galaxy.swf>>  
This clever flash animation featuring “The Galaxy Song” from *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life* provides a fun and educational introduction to cosmology and our place in the universe.