Writing the Sacred
A Psalm-inspired Path

to Appreciating & Writing Sacred Poetry

Ray McGinnis

An invitation to write sacred poetry

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“The Psalms represent a high point in poetic religious literature, reflecting in powerful ways the human condition and its desire for the divine. They rouse the heart to know again thanksgiving, praise, trust, lament, confession, wisdom, meditation, and history. Because there is continuity in the human experience of emotions, thoughts, and relationships, each generation can read the Psalms to find inspiration, challenge, and comfort. Because novelty is also part of being human, each generation can create new psalms to deepen their relationship with the Divine.” – Excerpt from Writing the Sacred by Ray McGinnis

In this unique book, Ray McGinnis offers us a new, deeper, and more meaningful way to explore and understand the Psalms. Vividly connecting us with the original psalm writers, McGinnis discusses the intent and meaning of the historical psalms, and then sets us on a path to creating our own sacred poetry.

Explaining the various literary devices used, and the intention behind the various types of psalms, McGinnis leads us through sensory and poetic exercises designed to transform the reader into an inspired modern day psalmist.

Because the writing of devotional literature is common to many historic cultures, McGinnis has included a section containing new psalms and poems from contemporary poets and Jewish, Islamic, and Christian writers from Canada and other countries.

RAY McGINNIS is a poet and psalm enthusiast and has written in journals all his life. He has taught over 3000 people how to write prayers, poetry, and autobiographies, all the while guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind, and spirit to the process.

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