



# An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith

By Barbara Brown Taylor

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In the *New York Times* bestseller *An Altar in the World*, acclaimed author Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey by building upon where she left off in *Leaving Church*. With the honesty of Elizabeth Gilbert (*Eat, Pray, Love*) and the spiritual depth of Anne Lamott (*Grace, Eventually*), Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In *An Altar in the World*, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

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## An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith By Barbara Brown Taylor Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Author of an acclaimed memoir (*Leaving Church*) and a gifted preacher, Taylor is one of those rare people who truly can see the holy in everything. Since everyone should know such a person, those who don't can—no, must—read this book, with its friendly reminders of everyday sacred. Taylor's 12 chapters mine the potentially sacred meaning of simple daily activities and conditions, like walking, paying attention, saying no to work one Sabbath day each week. Hanging laundry is setting up a prayer flag, for God's sake. Since Taylor, an Episcopal priest, no longer pastors a church, she can "do church" everywhere: in line at the grocery store interacting with the cashier, walking a moonlit path with her husband. Her candor is another of the book's virtues: she is a failure at prayer, and cannot explain why or how it is, or isn't, answered ("I do not know any way to talk about answered prayer without sounding like a huckster or a honeymooner"). Savor this book. (*Feb.*)

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### Review

"This is the most completely beautiful book in religion that I have read in a very long time. Gentle, humbly crafted, lyrical, and deeply wise, *Altar* is Barbara Brown Taylor as she was meant to be, a pastor who understands that knowing God occurs in a place beyond theology." (Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Great Emergence*)

"This book is the most practical but everyday mystical book I have read on spiritual practices." (Kate Campbell, singer-songwriter)

"Elegant, wise, and insightful, this book is also sacramental: it mediates the life it describes." (Marcus Borg, author of *Jesus*)

"*An Altar in the World* is about how faith can be both practical and sensuous. In Barbara Brown Taylor's hands, the old division between heaven and earth is healed and both come alive. Your mind, your body and your soul will be well fed by this wonderful book." (Nora Gallagher, author of *Things Seen and Unseen* and *Changing Light*)

"Taylor writes fluently, with an eye and ear for the striking image and memorable phrase. Many readers, especially the vast numbers of the "unchurched" but "spiritual," will find support and useful counsel." (*Library Journal*)

"[A] lovely book. One of the best-known preachers in the country offers equal amounts of wisdom and erudition spent longing for more meaning, more feeling, more connection." (*Booklist*)

"Taylor's spiritual reflections are original, bringing fresh air to her topics because her spirituality is steeped in everyday life while illuminated by the ancient Christian spiritual tradition." (*National Catholic Reporter*)

"The author seems simply incapable of writing a bad book. . . . Taylor is a great gift to the Christian church. And this volume, which focuses on spiritual practices, simply adds to her growing reputation." (*Kansas City Star*)

“Taylor is one of those rare people who truly can see the holy in everything. . . . Savor this book.”  
(Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“She’s deliberately exploring the turf where our feet hit the floorboards each morning - and where the day takes us into the world. Even if you’re not a Christian, you’ll find a wise friend in Barbara’s book.” (Read the Spirit)

“An Altar in the World is a delight to the eyes, mind and heart, a book I will certainly return to again at a later time, if only to remind myself of the spirituality of everyday living.” (America Magazine)

“Taylor serves up beefy soul food. . . . Though she did not write the book to speak to the economic crash, those suffering from lost jobs, homes and status will find plenty to feed thought and faith.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

“A marvelous book. Barbara Brown Taylor’s honesty is so fantastic, and she writes with such wit, that this book is a delight to read and a profound experience .” (ExploreFaith)

“Leaving Church settled it for me that Taylor, as thinker and stylist, ranks with the best. The new book confirms that. . . . This book is not a page-turner. It’s a page-lingerer. I wore out a highlighter marking passages I want to read again.” (Dallas Morning News)

“Without denigrating altars in churches, Brown helps us discover and honor all the ‘altars in the world’--the red Xs that mark the spot, but that we cannot see because we are standing on them. She does so with a depth that readers will appreciate and savor.” (—U.S. Catholic)

“...[H]er honest elegance... express[es] truths that throw open windows in our everyday lives—allowing fresh perspectives on life. You’ll finish her book with dozens of pages folded over or marked in some other fashion so you can find and re-read favorite lines again.” (Read the Spirit)

“Barbara Brown Taylor is a favorite among church members who struggle to connect the sacred and secular, the heavenly and the earthly. These readers appreciate the candor with which she writes about it.” (Raleigh News and Observer)

“Overall... if one can read Taylor’s insights reflectively, with an eye toward Scripture, Altar will serve as a refreshing reminder that the physical world is designed to help us experience the spiritual one.”  
(ChristianityToday.com)

“Barbara Brown Taylor penetrates the religious clutter. She comforts. She revives our spirits. With lovely words she finds ‘alters in our world.’” (The Congregationalist)

“While I don’t like long books, this one could have been 500 pages longer with no complaints from me.”  
(Christian Science Monitor)

From the Back Cover

In her critically acclaimed *Leaving Church* ("a beautiful, absorbing memoir"—*The Dallas Morning News*), Barbara Brown Taylor wrote about her experience leaving full-time ministry to become a professor, a decision that stretched the boundaries of her faith. Now, in her stunning follow-up, *An Altar in the World*, she shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church.

Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Solorio:**

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you that *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* book as beginning and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### **Michael Sweet:**

This book entitled *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

#### **James Longo:**

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new data. When you read a guide you will get new information mainly because book is one of numerous ways to share the information or their idea. Second, examining a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional works book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you are able to share your knowledge to others. When you read this *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, you are able to tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a e-book.

#### **Brandy Felts:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely

indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read will be An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith.

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