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## WATER's Feminist Conversations in Religion Series Presents

### "Occupy Paradise"

An hour-long teleconference with  
**Rita Nakashima Brock**

Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
1 pm-2 pm EDT

Rita Nakashima Brock, a native of Fukuoka, Japan, is Director of [Faith Voices for the Common Good](#), an educational nonprofit she founded in 2004, and is a Visiting Scholar at the [Starr King School for the Ministry](#) in the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. A Commissioned Minister of the Northern California and Nevada Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she has been a lifelong activist and a core member of the Interfaith Tent at Occupy Oakland since its inception. She was among 16 religious leaders arrested on Nov. 14 during a police raid of the occupation. Dr. Brock is the author of several award-winning books that break new ground. Her latest, [Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire](#) (Beacon, 2008), co-authored with Rebecca Parker, was chosen as one of *Publishers Weekly's* best books of 2008.

Rita is a feminist activist who is committed to social justice. She will be discussing her involvement in the Occupy movement and will also draw on her work with Rebecca Parker, [Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire](#), in which they demonstrate the centrality of beauty, not sin/suffering, in the Christian tradition. Parallels between that analysis and the work of the Occupiers will make for fascinating discussion about feminist studies in religion.

Gather your friends and colleagues for lunch and join in the conversation. This is a great opportunity for students as well as for ministers and others. It is sure to be an engaging session. This teleconference, along with notes, will be available on our website soon after it concludes. To download past teleconferences, please [visit our website](#).

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## Contemplative Prayer at WATER Monday, January 9, 2012

WATER offers a regular contemplative prayer opportunity each month. Join us on Monday, **January 9, 2012, at 7:30 PM**. This will be a communal meditation, a time of silence and reflection followed by a short discussion. Mary E. Hunt will lead the session.

The office will be open at 7 PM for a cup of tea and conversation. Silence will commence promptly at 7:30 PM, so please be here by then. We will finish and be on our way by 8:30 PM.

You can also join us by telephone.

RSVP by Friday, January 6, 2012, to [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com) or 301.589.2509 so that we can expect you. If you wish to join by phone, please indicate that so we can send you the phone-in number and other information. The phone option is increasingly popular and seems to work quite well so feel free to try it! Still another option is Skype. So when you RSVP, please indicate which mode you will use, and we will advise accordingly. Thanks!

Donations are always welcome.

Parking is free in the garage behind the office after 7 PM. The front door of the building has a phone entry system; find "WATER" and dial the office to be buzzed in.

All are welcome. Some of us have been involved in the Engaging Impasse process ([www.engagingimpasse.org](http://www.engagingimpasse.org)), which combines meditation with community dialogue. No experience required! Just come with a contemplative spirit. Your presence will enrich us all.

The next WATER meditation will be on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

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