



November 30, 2021

## Give a gift that costs nothing.

**It's that time of year** when everyone is asking you to give. Although no money will change hands, I also have a request: give NoCo Beet to someone you know. It's free, of course. By forwarding your copy to a friend or relative – no matter where they reside – you are giving a gift of spiritual resources that just might ring a bell. A simple subscription form is at the bottom of every issue.

Perhaps a reminder of making and keeping peace is also timely. The Northern Colorado Faith Library just added two books about the Sermon on the Mount – one published last year and another published 15 years ago.

[\*Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount\*](#) is a collection of 52 readings to spark weekly discussions about putting Jesus' most central teachings into practice. Authors include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, C.S. Lewis, Dorothy Day, Leo Tolstoy, N.T. Wright and many more.

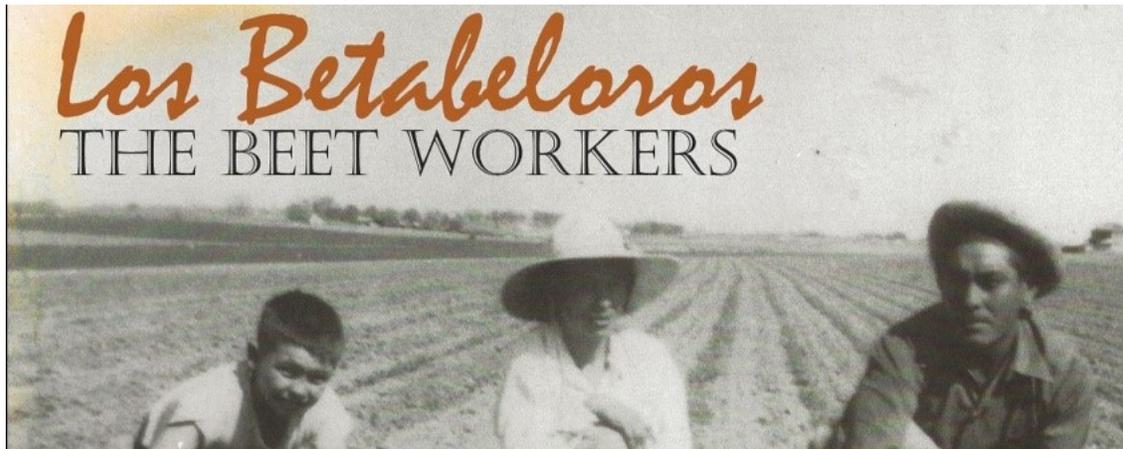
[\*Living the Sermon on the Mount: A Practical Guide for Grace and Deliverance\*](#) was published in 2006 by the late Glen H. Stassen, an ethicist and Baptist theologian best known for work on what he dubbed "just peacemaking." I interviewed him the year the book was published and his words stuck. "If you have a problem with your brother, you have to drop all that you're doing and make peace with him," he said. "That's a basic requirement of Jesus' teaching and of just-peacemaking theory. And, of course, it works better."

***--David W. Reid, editor***

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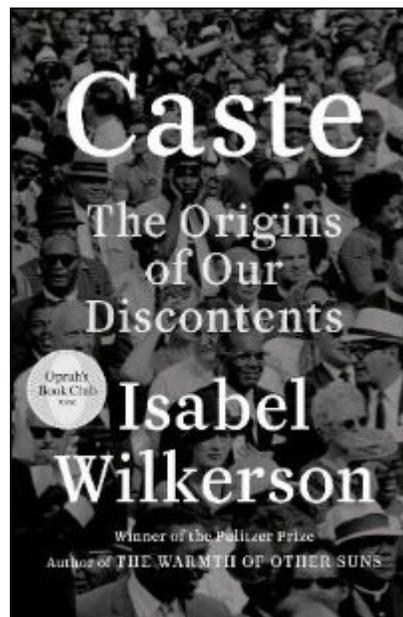
# 🍷 Northern Colorado 🍷

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Act quickly to register to see and discuss producer Betty Aragon-Mitotes' new movie ***Los Betabeloros (The Beetworkers)*** The viewing is at your convenience between December 2 and 5. An online discussion will be held at 4 p.m. on December 5. This program is sponsored by the Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC). Full details and registration information is [here](#).

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A much-anticipated study of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* arrives

at First Church in January with a unique every-other-week format that will allow time between sessions to read this 2020 book from **Isabel Wilkerson**.

Obtaining a copy early will be useful to be prepared for the first class session on January 12. Additional discussion sessions will be January 26 and February 9. A final session to discuss possible actions will be February 23.

Don Gaymon, who chairs the Church and Society Committee, will lead a section at noon in person and a section at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

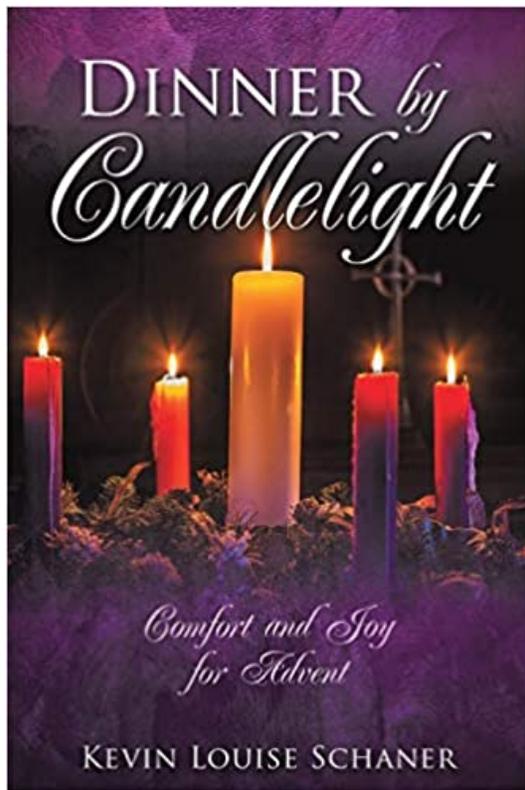
This is the second book for Wilkerson, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her debut book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Wilkerson's thesis is that beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, she explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. *The New York Times* called *Caste* “an instant American classic and almost certainly the keynote nonfiction book of the American century so far.”

To register or reserve a hardcover copy of *Caste* for \$15, contact David Reid at (970) 581-2707, [davidreid24@gmail.com](mailto:davidreid24@gmail.com) or on Sundays at the Adult Faith Formation table.

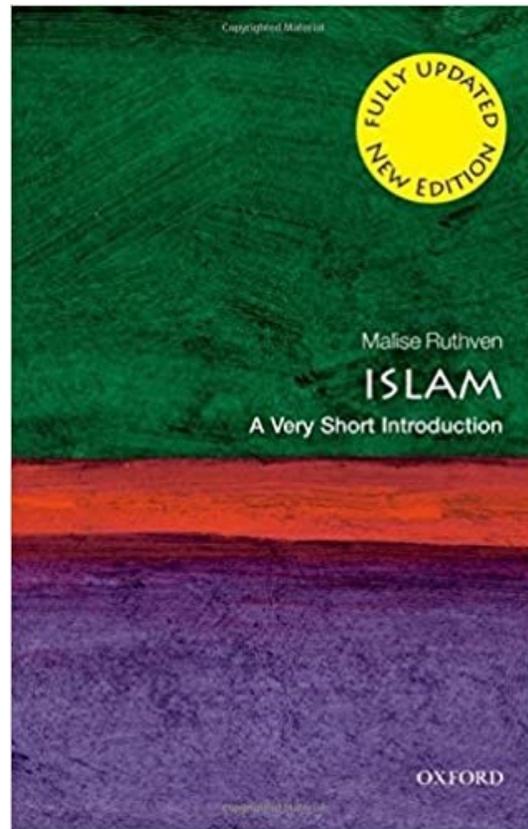
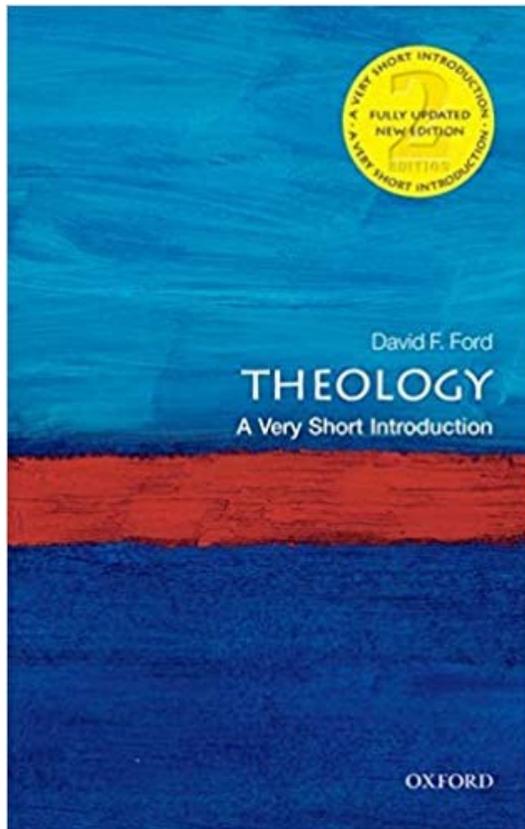
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The four-week study of ***Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent*** begins December 1. Contact David Reid now to register at [davidreid24@gmail.com](mailto:davidreid24@gmail.com) or 970-581-



2707. In-person classes are at noon with David and on Zoom at 7 p.m. with Rick and Kate Norton facilitating.



**Do you have time for A Very Short Introduction?** This series of little books from Oxford University Press provides expert and yet easy-to-read explanations of many things religious. The Northern Colorado Faith Library added these titles

in November:

[\*Theology: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by David F. Ford, 230 FOR

[\*The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Luke Timothy Johnson, 225.61 JOH

[\*The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Timothy H. Lim, 296.155 LIM

[\*Islam: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Malise Ruthven, 297.8 RUT

[\*The Koran: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Michael Cook, 297.122 COO

Other books in this series in the NCFL's holdings include:

[\*Methodism: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by William Abraham, 287.092 ABR

[\*Protestantism: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Mark A. Noll, 280.4 NOL

[\*Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction\*](#) by Thomas Dixon, 201.65 DIX

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# Regional

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Organist Norman Sutphin at the Roosevelt organ. Photo: Denver Post.

A series of lunch-hour Advent organ recitals is scheduled at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1820 Broadway, Denver. The Roosevelt organ was purchased for \$30,000 in 1887; replacement value is estimated in the millions of dollars. Details are [here](#).

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**Logan Farmer**, a Fort Collins-based musician, was a recent guest on the young adult podcast series on climate change sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver. Find the November 7 podcast [here](#). Find out more about Logan [here](#).

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**Birthing the Holy** is a three-hour online Advent mini-retreat from Spirituality and Practice on December 4. The leader is Christine Valters Paintner, Ph.D., the online abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global community which integrates contemplative practice and creative expression. Details and registration are [here](#).

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**Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe**, general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, [preached](#) recently at Glasgow Cathedral in connection with the U.N. Climate Change Conference, COP26. Her sermon begins 57 minutes into the recording.

For a gripping look at climate change activism, Church and Society will sponsor a special showing of the film, *This Changes Everything*. Watch the trailer and register [here](#).

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“**Lessons for the Heart, Remembering the Events of 9/11**” is a powerful [episode](#) of Dr. Omid Safi’s podcast in which the Muslim scholar delves into a very personal recollection.



**Jack Kornfield**, the renowned American teacher of Buddhism, presents a basic lesson on mindfulness in this [video](#). He is founder of the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Marin County, California and has written more than 20 books.

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Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost in the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Christian Century* asked five writers to [respond](#). They are Reggie Williams, Joanna Penn Cooper, Kerri N. Allen, D.L. Mayfield and Marlina Proper Deida Graves.



From the mouths of babes comes this virtual Christmas pageant. Last year, Riverside Church in New York City put together this production of “[Do Not Be Afraid](#)” and delivered it via YouTube on December 24. It’s a wonderful gift. Can you wait until Christmas?

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*NoCo Beet* is a publication sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team and Northern Colorado Library Board at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. Publishers are Rev. Melanie Rosa and Rev. Cynthia Paquette, both of First Church. David Reid serves as editor. Shelley Nelson is the designer and copy editor.

You can find our archive on the [Adult Ministries page](#) at the First United Methodist Church website. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us, and if you like what you see please forward this to acquaintances. Everyone is welcome to subscribe by using [this form](#).

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