

All of us tell ourselves broken stories about who we are and how we've been living. I urge you to accept my friend Mallory's invitation to expand the ways you think about the Divine and live into a better, truer story. It will radically alter your life in beautiful ways!

— Ian Morgan Cron, author of *The Story of You*



Gifted writer encourages readers to seek out and name the expansiveness of God

Mallory Wyckoff—teacher, preacher, writer, and spiritual director—takes readers on a journey of More in her new book, *God Is*. Wyckoff explores feminine and untapped language and metaphors for God—some biblical and familiar, others less well-known, but all revelatory of a God who is More than we've been allowed to imagine. She offers up her own spiritual journey to encourage readers to reconsider their “small” view of God—and of themselves.

“I’ve set out to write about the expansiveness of God because there are too many energies that resist this notion, that seek to keep God—and humanity—small,” she says in *God Is*. “It’s as if many believe that one image of God is sufficient, capable of holding all that we are and all that will be, able to contain all that God is. But my reality has never reflected that.”

Wyckoff’s lyrical prose, full of her humor and wide range of experiences, pulls readers into new ways of looking at God and the many expressions of the Divine. Chapters include:

- God is Creator
- God is Seamstress
- God Is Mother
- God is Midwife
- God Is Hostess
- God Is Sexual Trauma Survivor
- God is Wisdom Within
- God Is Mystery
- God Is...

Her goal is to encourage readers to name God wherever and however they sense the Divine, in the process finding that they see themselves—and their neighbors—more fully. Bonus material includes practices and reflections to help readers further engage in *God Is* for themselves or in groups.

“I’m just one finger pointing at the universe I inhabit, with my own particularities and limitedness and faults. But I’ll keep pointing up, trying to describe what I see,” Wyckoff says. “I’ll keep listening for voices as diverse as the God who made humanity in her image, as together in our own languages we seek to name The God Who Is.”

God Is
By Mallory Wyckoff
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Mallory Wyckoff

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Mallory Wyckoff (DMin, MTS) is a teacher, preacher, writer, and spiritual director. She serves as key relationships officer with Preemptive Love, a global community of peacemakers working to end war and stop the spread of violence. Having completed her dissertation on the impact of sexual trauma on survivors' theological perception and spiritual formation, Mallory has a DMin from Lipscomb University in missional and spiritual formation. In all her work, Mallory is a trusted voice for people seeking to navigate their spirituality with curiosity, honesty, and courage. A native Floridian, she lives with her husband and their daughters, Olive and Ivy.

Suggested Interview Questions

- You say that “A small God—a small you—has never served the world.” Explain what you mean by that.
- How did finding yourself hiding under a table in the Luke 7 story, and Jesus coming to join you there, change the trajectory of your faith and life?
- How does what we believe about God inform what we believe about everything and everyone?
- How do the social and cultural structures that shape our views of women also shape our views of God? How can both be liberated, the walls torn down?
- Why do you tap into the beautiful, feminine images of God and feminine God language in your descriptions of the Divine?
- What is one description of God that is especially poignant for you? Why?
- How has your spiritual practice of collecting names for God enriched your life? Can you give us a few examples?
- What two things are required for us to begin to name God for ourselves?
- How does a singular view of God—usually that of a White male god—keep faith and God small and hurt so many?
- What is the benefit of engaging with the Divine in new ways, as you suggest in your book?

What People are Saying About *God Is*



“Whether out of reverence or fear—or both—many attempts to talk about God end up feeling like a rigid translation of someone else’s conversation. Mallory Wyckoff dares to speak about the divine mystery from her own experience. The result is an invitation into something both beautiful and disorienting—a language as authentic as the messy reality we all know to be true to life.”

— **Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, author of *Reconstructing the Gospel***

“There are many who go as far as to name the flaws in traditional American understandings of faith and God, but no further. In this book, Mallory has done the difficult and necessary work of identifying the issues and inviting us to imagine a better way. Mallory is a fierce, funny, and prophetic voice for this and future generations of people deconstructing and reimagining their faith. The book is beautiful, honest, funny, and relentlessly vulnerable. (As a matter of fact, if you see her, kindly ask her to chill out on the funny part and leave some work for the rest of us.)”

— **Anthony Russo, creator of *The Bible Is Funny***

“For many of us, the word “God” is confusing, even traumatic. With poignant story-telling and spiritual wisdom Mallory Wyckoff leads us tenderly to a place of grace, beauty, and joy. This is a wise, beautiful, and healing book.”

— **Richard Beck, author of *Hunting Magic Eels: Recovering an Enchanted Faith in a Skeptical Age***

“The language we use to describe God shapes the way we relate to God and others. If you want to broaden your God-language to include feminine imagery, I recommend Mallory Wyckoff as a trustworthy guide.”

— **Sara Gaston Barton, author of *A Woman Called***

“Mallory Wyckoff is brave to declare that ‘God is’ and then allow her journey and thoughts to lead her along the path of exploring what that looks and feels like as multiple images of God and herself arise. She is so correct in asserting that, ‘God is too large for only one image.’ The courageous exploration of God and self is a gift to all.”

— **Catherine Meeks, co-author of *Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time***

“Far too often we place God within boxes that do no justice for the magnitude of God, but those boxes don't just confine God. They also confine us, because a small God makes for small people. Yet the one who drags both God and us out of those confining boxes is God. I bet if you keep your eyes open you will feel the divine hints and images within this brilliant book. Wyckoff has given us all a beautiful gift in *God Is* that will help us receive the divine invitation to experience God.”

— **Luke Norsworthy, host of the *Newsworthy With Norsworthy* podcast**

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