

# Incarnational Spirituality as a Means for Cultural Transformation

with Simon Lasair PhD

**Date and Time:** Thursday June 27, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30

Add supper for \$15\*

*\*Supper is served at 5:30 p.m. for a minimum of 12 people. Please confirm with receptionist if this meal will be provided.*

Registration deadline: June 24

## **Detail:**

It is easy to think of the sacred and the secular as opposed. However, recent research shows the secular contains deeply imbedded sacred values. These values are not expressed using religious concepts or symbols. Rather they are revealed through the intense emotions that surface around issues of significant cultural concern. The numerous emerging sex abuse scandals and the increasing polarizations in religion and politics, for example, can therefore be seen as conflicts about what ought to be understood as sacred in the secular world.

Due to the profound nature of these conflicts, it is very difficult to remain neutral or even to transcend the entrenchments so common in public debate. Yet there is hope. Drawing upon the recent writings of Richard Rohr, Rowan Williams, Cynthia Bourgeault, Ken Wilber, and Raimon Pannikar, this workshop will introduce an incarnational Christian spirituality that is desperately needed for our times. Understanding the goal of Christian spirituality as revealing the Christ to the world, this workshop will begin by reflecting theologically on our current time, moving on to discuss a possible spiritual response within a Christian framework. The workshop will finish by offering a number of spiritual practices for cultivating the attitudes necessary for engaging our world both lovingly and prophetically.

Participants can thus expect to gain fresh insights into the many forces currently shaping our world, as well as several practical steps for nurturing a spirituality that can speak powerfully into our contemporary cultural context.

**Presenter: Simon Lasair** is a seasoned practitioner of contemplative Christianity, seeing contemplation as crucial for his most important roles: husband of Bronwyn and father of Beth and Alex. Simon is also Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care and a nationally recognized leader in spirituality and spiritual care research. He holds a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Manchester, UK, and has taught in several post-secondary settings. He most recently worked as a spiritual care practitioner in both public and faith-based healthcare organizations.