



St. Stephen's  
College

Register at [www.wisdomcentre.ca](http://www.wisdomcentre.ca)

Early bird registration until  
April 1, 2012

Both Thursday and Friday \$90.

Thursday only \$65 (\$70 after April 1)

Friday only \$25 (\$30 after April 1)

**“Saving Paradise on Earth: Faith  
for the 21st Century” with  
Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock, Ph.D.  
Lakeview United Church  
3023 - 63 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB**

**Thursday, May 3, 2012**

**4:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Two lectures and dinner**

***Lecture 1: In the Beginning: An Earth-Embracing, Beauty-Loving, Justice-Seeking Christianity***

No images of Jesus dead exist in Christian church art for a millennium. Instead, churches filled spaces with images of paradise as this world. In reading the story of the Bible as the struggle for paradise in this world, we can uncover a different, life-affirming understanding of Christian faith.

***Lecture 2: What Happened to This World as Paradise and Where Do We Go From Here?***

Beginning in the 12th century, Christians shifted from salvation as baptism into paradise in this world to an emphasis on salvation in the afterlife through crucifixion. This lecture explores how this shift happened and how Christian social justice movements in the 19th and 20th centuries sought to create the kingdom of God “on earth as it is in heaven.”

**Friday May 4, 2012**

**9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**Reading the Bible as Paradise Text**

We'll look at the Bible as the story of how creation and the garden tell us how to live, everything that can go wrong when we leave the garden, and what we must do to reclaim and tend the paradise in this world.

Rita Nakashima Brock, Ph.D., has taught religion and women's studies for 20 years at a number of colleges and universities. She is a widely sought lecturer. Her work continues to interweave religious questions with issues of justice and peace. Dr. Brock is the author of *Journeys By Heart: A Christology of Erotic Power*, and the co-author with Rebecca Parker of *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us*. Her most recent book co-authored with Rebecca Parker is *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire* was selected as one of the best books of 2008 by Publisher's Weekly.

**A similar program will be held May 4 and 5th in Edmonton at  
St. Stephens College 780-439-7311.**