



## INTRODUCTION TO SEMINARY OF THE WILD

*Epiphany: Awakening to Nature, Spirit and Soul*

**Wednesday, January 24th from 9 am - 4 pm**

*Epiphany: Awakening to Nature, Spirit and Soul* - A winter wander into the mysteries of Creation and the rhythms of solitude, enchantment, and deep imagination. **Wednesday, January 24th from 9 am - 4 pm.** Donation: \$45 per adult. You are invited to a time of Sabbath rest and renewal in the nurturing community of fellow pilgrims in Creation as we participate in the winter rhythms of wild discipleship during this season of Epiphany. **Rediscover your own innocence, wonder and wisdom as well as your deep capacities for imagination and artistic vision** mirroring the inner terrain of soul and outer landscapes of the land. Through parables, poetry, and contemplative practices you will learn practices from the Celtic and indigenous Christian traditions for accessing and cultivating treasure hidden in the field.

“The Light shines out of the Darkness and the Darkness has not comprehended it.” - John 1



Seminary of the Wild seeks to move spiritual formation and education beyond the walls of classroom and church into a fully immersive experience — integrating mind, body, spirit, soul — in the natural world for the revitalization of the Beloved Community in deeper service to the world. We are called by an untamed God to *re-connect* with the natural world, to experience the healing and ‘wholing’ power of the Spirit in conversation with nature and our own depths. Our own God-given nature has been created with astonishing resources, unrealized gifts and depths until we discover how to access, cultivate, and integrate them into our daily lives.

“*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...*” Based on a deeper exploration of Scripture, the life and teachings of Jesus, the lives of the Christian mystics, and practices in Bill Plotkin’s book *Wild Mind*, this introduction will explore a few practices which integrate contemplative spirituality, prayer, and nature-based soul work. We’ll explore the landscape of the human soul in our deeper connection with the natural world through a variety of practices including:

- **Time alone in nature to rest and renew**
- **Guided reflection on the poetics of Scripture**
- **Contemplative prayer practice and wanders to help cultivate our wholeness in Christ and soulful encounter within the “Big Book” of Nature.**
- **Reconnection with your own vital physical body through hiking and expressive movement**
- **Self-designed ceremony**
- **Group work in authentic community**

**Register at: <http://www.churchoflostwalls.org/seminary-of-the-wild-course-102> or contact Rev. Matt Syrdal @ [matt\\_syrdal@wildersoul.org](mailto:matt_syrdal@wildersoul.org) for more info!**

Rev. Matthew Syrdal, is a PC(USA) pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, founder and lead guide of *WilderSoul* and *Church of Lost Walls*. Matt is a speaker, artist and writer who has offered workshops around the country and retreats in the front range mountains of Colorado. Matt has studied Celtic spirituality, eco-justice, and is a trained nature-based human development guide through Animas Valley Institute. Matt is co-visionary of Seminary of the Wild exploring Celtic, contemplative and indigenous practices oriented towards nature-based wholeness, leadership and eco-justice, offering retreats, and group immersions, for the cultivation of greater healing, vision and action.

