



WABASH CENTER

For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion



joy in apocalypse

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a miracle appeared in class today
the words leapt from the page and
glided through our throats
breath turned to fireflies
turned to glitter
burned to ash
our words reside in the universe now
they ring in our ears
in time with our beating hearts playing |
between the quarks and neutrinos
that bind us to each other
God's blasphemy of the highest order
beautiful
startling
worlds ending and beginning
is this not the teaching and learning life?

they can try banning words to
end us
but their own limits
free us
english only and alone
because they don't know
we learned other keys for playing
symphonies of meaning
Nahuatl

Diné

Creole

Zulu

Arabic

Kiswahili

Kugo

Hebrew

Aramaic

Greek

Sanskrit

Māori

all constellations of understanding
galaxies of interpretation
holding our birthrights
to study

*activism
affirming care
anti-racism
assigned at birth
at risk
biases
BIPOC
Black
Latinx
clean energy
climate crisis
confirmation bias
cultural heritage
DEI
disability
discriminatory
disparity
diverse groups
diversity
equitableness
feminism
gender ideology
Gulf of Mexico
hate speech
implicit bias
inclusiveness
Indigenous community
inequalities
injustice
intersectionality
LGBTQ
marginalized
minorities
most risk
multicultural
Native American
nonbinary
oppressive
people-centered care
pregnant person
prejudice

to challenge
to dream
to create
to thrive amidst
a page
of a document
on a website
from a school
or a government
or a church
that cannot fathom
what joy is possible
in an apocalypse

pronouns
racial inequality
sexuality
social justice
socioeconomic
stereotypes
systemic
they/them
transgender
traumatic
underprivileged
victims
women

* Karen Yourish, Annie Daniel, Saurabh Datar, Isaac White, and Lazaro Gamio, "These Words Are Disappearing in the New Trump Administration," *The New York Times*, March 7, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/07/us/trump-federal-agencies-websites-words-dei.html>.

<https://wabash.center/2025/07/joy-in-apocalypse/>