

Contents



Acknowledgments ~ vii

Introduction ~ ix

1 What Can Your Baby Show You About God? ~ 1

4 AM Madonna ~ 1

God as Creator ~ 3

The Fertile, Feminine Side of God ~ 6

God's Nurturing and Indulgent, Unconditional Love ~ 8

God's Presence in Everyday Life ~ 13

Paintbox Prayers ~ 15

Paintbox Prayers and Journals ~ 18

2 Prayer and Responding to Feelings, Thoughts, and Memories ~ 23

Childhood Memories ~ 24

World Events ~ 26

Overwhelming Feelings About Your Baby ~ 31

Ambivalent Feelings ~ 33

Your Sense of Your Own Self and Space ~ 36

Your Sacred Space ~ 38

Your Symbol ~ 40

Prayer and How a 4 AM Madonna Might Do It ~ 41

Living Prayerfully ~ 45

Inviting God In ~ 46

Contents

3 Creative Expression Following Prayer or Reflection ~ 51

Creative Drawing ~ 51

Collage ~ 61

Creative Writing ~ 63

Sensory Imaging ~ 67

4 Where Do We Find Our Support and Inspiration? ~ 71

Who Inspires, and Why? ~ 72

Stories and Desires ~ 77

Manuals and Experts—Discerning Our Way ~ 79

Discovering Our Potential for Joy ~ 85

Images of God ~ 90

5 New Parental Roles and Adapting to Family Life ~ 98

“Chicken-Banana” Days ~ 98

The Shape of Things to Come... ~ 103

Loving Our Colorful Children ~ 118

Being a Parent ~ 121

Interpersonal Circles ~ 124

Human Connection ~ 126

Conclusion ~ 129

Endnotes ~ 131

Further Reading ~ 133