

Bridging the Gap

2019-2020

Sundays at 9:00 AM

Bridging the Gap is a wonderful opportunity to gather as adults from a variety of backgrounds and discuss pressing issues in our world through our life of faith. It is also an excellent way to introduce friends and neighbors to St. Matthew and about how we approach our common life through the balance of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason.

Please join us for what will undoubtedly be a very interesting and exciting year of *Bridging the Gap* **beginning Sunday, October 6th @ 9 AM**. Unlike our typical trimester schedule, we are breaking the year up into smaller seasons, utilizing a variety of lectures and studies given and written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. The goal this year is to gain a better understanding of our own faith as Christians, especially in modern times, by listening to one of the most respected Jewish scholars of our day as we examine our common scriptures in the Old Testament and common themes in the New Testament through the lens of critical Feminist and Jewish socio-political theory. Although the entire program will be enjoyed by all as a whole, our design this year allows flexibility for drop-in participation and does not require attendance at every gathering.

Dr. Levine is a very well respected and sought after lecturer in the field of Jewish-Christian dialogue. Her content and delivery is as entertaining as it is intellectually satisfying and her commentary is pointed yet extremely accessible to a wide and diverse audience. The abstract from Wikipedia summarizes her background and approach extremely well:

Born 1956, Levine completed her undergraduate work at Smith College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and held honors in both religion and English. She earned her doctorate at Duke University. She has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. Her most recent publications include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006), the edited collection, *The Historical Jesus in Context* (Princeton University Press, 2006), and the 14-volume *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings* (Continuum). A self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," Levine "combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Semitic, sexist, and homophobic theologies." She is a member of the Orthodox Jewish synagogue Sherith Israel. Despite that, she rejects the Orthodox Jewish tenet of an afterlife and "is often quite unorthodox" overall. Levine has produced lectures on the Old Testament and "Great Figures of the New Testament" for The Teaching Company.

Bring a neighbor or a friend as we embark on this wonderful journey together!

I. Finishing the Season after Pentecost

- 10/6 Reassessing Jewish-Christian Relations (Part 1) – *Burke Lecture, UCSD, April 2001*
- 10/13 Reassessing Jewish-Christian Relations (Part 2) – *Burke Lecture, UCSD, April 2001*
- 10/20 In the Beginning
- 10/27 Adam and Eve
- 11/3 Murder, Flood, Dispersion
- 11/10 Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar
- 11/17 Isaac
- 11/24 The Jacob Saga

II. Advent

- 12/1 Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent – *The Meaning of Memory*
12/8 Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent – *The Promise of Potential*
12/15 Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent – *The Journey to Joy*
12/22 Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent – *The Gift of the Gentiles*
12/29 *No Class*

III. 12th Night to Palm Sunday

- 1/5 Folklore Analysis and Type Scenes
1/12 Moses and Exodus
1/26 The God of Israel
2/2 Covenant and Law, Part 1
2/9 Covenant and Law, Part 2
2/16 The Conquest
2/23 The Book of Judges, Part 1
3/1 The Book of Judges, Part 2
3/8 Samuel and Saul
3/15 King David
3/22 From King Solomon to Preclassical Prophecy
3/29 The Prophets and the Fall of the North
4/5 The Southern Kingdom

IV. Season of Easter

- 4/12 *No Class (The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day)*
4/19 Telling Stories About Women (Part 1) – *8th Annual Mary of Magdala Celebration, Boston College, July 2016*
4/26 Telling Stories About Women (Part 2) – *8th Annual Mary of Magdala Celebration, Boston College, July 2016*
5/3 Who Did They Say He Was? Jesus in Text and Context (Part 1) – *Westminster Townhall Forum, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, March 2015*
5/10 Who Did They Say He Was? Jesus in Text and Context (Part 2) – *Westminster Townhall Forum, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, March 2015*
5/17 Christian Privilege, Christian Fragility, and the Gospel of John: How American Race Relations inform Jewish-Christian Dialogue (Part 1) – *6th Annual John Paul II Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations, Boston College, October 2018*
5/24 Christian Privilege, Christian Fragility, and the Gospel of John: How American Race Relations inform Jewish-Christian Dialogue (Part 1) – *6th Annual John Paul II Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations, Boston College, October 2018*

V. Pentecost to Completion

- 5/31 Babylonian Exile
6/7 Restoration and Theocracy
6/14 Wisdom Literature
6/21 Life in the Diaspora
6/28 Apocalyptic Literature