

TUESDAY		March 3
9:30 a.m.	Welcome, registration and coffee	Gallery
10 a.m.	Opening Chapel Sermon: "Who Do You Say that I Am?"	Alford Centrum
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11 a.m.	Lecture: "Reading Mark as Parable"	Alford Centrum
Noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
1 p.m.	Workshop: "Preaching Parables"	Alford Centrum
3 p.m.	Dismissal	

WEDNESDAY		March 4
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and coffee	Gallery
10 a.m.	Lecture: "Preaching Mark as Parable"	Alford Centrum
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11 a.m.	Workshop: "Preaching Mark Cumulatively in the Revised Common Lectionary and in Sermon Series"	Alford Centrum
Noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
1 p.m.	Closing Chapel Sermon: "Mark's Stained Glass Window"	Alford Centrum
2 p.m.	Dismissal	

Prelude

Danny Russell, organist

Call to Worship

Angie Cox '19

One: God, you have called us to this place and to be your people.

Many: Here we come to be refreshed, to be renewed but also to be challenged.

One: You challenge us to explore what we believe and determine how to respond in faith.

Many: In our time together, remind us that we do not explore the hard questions alone. Remind us that the explorations and struggle matter as much as the answers.

One: Creator God, send your spirit to this place.

Many: Fill us with hope. Send us out to live and serve and struggle in the places you most need us to be. Amen.

Hymn

"Come, Sing of New Creation"

1. Come, sing of new cre - a - tion, un - fold - ing all our days,
2. Re - joice in past and pre - sent, in bless - ings through the years,
3. Our ded - i - cat - ed sis - ters in - spire our work each day,
4. Come, cel - e - brate all pi - o - neers who o - pen minds and doors,
as Ho - ly Wis - dom guides us in Her trans - form - ing ways.
in fu - ture sto - ries join - ing to make the Good News clear.
through words and ac - tions lead - ing to Wis - dom's peace - ful way.
as Ho - ly Wis - dom gives us Her pow - er ev - er - more.
Come, cel - e - brate our sis - ters who take down ev - ery wall,
Come, cel - e - brate our found - ers whose cour - age set us free,
Come, cel - e - brate the found - ers of new re - al - i - ty,
Our sons and daugh - ters preach - ing stir all to dream and dare,
through faith - ful ser - vice lead - ing in lib - er - at - ing all.
who blazed new paths to jus - tice, to full e - qual - i - ty.
who la - bor build - ing bridg - es, cre - at - ing syn - er - gy.
to co - cre - ate and nur - ture a world of lov - ing care.

Words: Jann Aldredge-Clanton
Music: *Wittenberg Gesangbuch*, 1784
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Opening Prayer

Tom Snyder
Adjunct Faculty

Great and loving God, we come before you emptied of all that would distract, seeking all that would redeem. Let these moments of worship not become so routine as to be predictable, nor so familiar as to be conventional. Prepare us for the unexpected. Open us to the joy of worship so that we may rededicate ourselves to delivering much-needed grace and mercy to a hurting world. Amen.

Continues

Interlude

Rebekah Sperling, flautist
MTSO student

Scripture

Mark 8:27-38

Sermon

"Who Do You Say that I Am?"

O. Wesley Allen Jr.

Hymn

"We Come in Celebration"

1. We come in cel - e - bra - tion of bless - ings through the years,
2. As part - ners we will la - bor for free - dom ev - ery - where,
3. Our mis - sion still in - spires us to bring Good News to all,
4. For past and pre - sent vi - sions, for fu - ture dreams held high,

as we have joined to - geth - er on mis - sion far and near.
each voice, each con - gre - ga - tion af - firmed with lov - ing care.
to side with poor and hun - gry to sound the jus - tice call.
we thank You, Ho - ly Wis - dom; on You we still re - ly.

We praise You, Ho - ly Wis - dom, for guid - ance day by day,
We join to work for jus - tice, for heal - ing of the earth;
We work to end op - pres - sion so all are whole and free;
Our grat - i - tude we bring You for cour - age to be free

for var - ied gifts u - nit - ed to make a peace - ful way.
come, Ho - ly Wis - dom, guide us in new cre - a - tion's birth.
come, Ho - ly Wis - dom, help us cre - ate e - qual - i - ty.
to co - cre - ate and nur - ture a bold com - mu - ni - ty.

Words: Jann Aldredge-Clanton
Music: Melchior Teschner

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Closing Prayer

Kyle Brooks
Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

One: Gracious God, you are a God who walks beside your people.

Many: We ask for strength and endurance as we work for justice.

One: You are a God who raises up those who are bent low.

Many: We pray that we might heal the indifference of the world.

One: You are a God who admonishes us to turn our swords into plowshares.

Many: Forgive the foolishness of the nations too long at war and enable us to further your purposes of love and reconciliation.

One: You are a God who feeds the hungry.

Many: May we serve all who long for bread.

One: You are a God who celebrates the small and the insignificant.

Many: We ask that you would help us to see those who are never noticed.

One: You are a God who says, "Follow me."

Many: We pray for the courage and faith to take up the cross and find it leads to life. Amen.

Hymn

"We Are Called"

FWS No. 2172

Benediction

O. Wesley Allen Jr.

Postlude

The hymns "Come, Sing of New Creation" and "We Come in Celebration" are from *Earth Transformed with Music: Inclusive Songs for Worship*, published by Eakin Press.

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Prelude

Danny Russell, organist

Call to Worship

Bob Tannehill
Professor Emeritus

One: What if God calls us not to creeds but to conversation?

Many: What if God calls us not to a destination but to a relationship?

One: What if God has been dreaming of a future with us and for us?

Many: What if God urges us to be the answer even in the midst of our asking the questions?

One: What if God longs for us to not only cry for justice but bear the burden of the hungry, the poor and the oppressed?

Many: What if we answered, "Here I am. I am ready."

Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

UMH No. 593

Opening Prayer

Leigh Precise
Executive Assistant to the President

Loving God, with open arms you welcome all who call on your name and look to you in faith. No one stands outside the circle of your mercy and love. And so we come to offer you our worship—to declare that you are our God, and that we are your people. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit open our eyes to see you, open our minds to receive your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing your praise now and until the end of time. Amen.

Interlude

"It Is Well with My Soul", arr. Beck

Jeffrey White, vocalist
MTSO student

Scripture

Mark 15:25-39

Sermon

"Mark's Stained Glass Window"

O. Wesley Allen Jr.

Hymn

“Renewing, Reforming the Church in Our Day”

1. Re - new - ing, re - form - ing the church in our day,
 2. Our mis - sion re - claim - ing, we wit - ness a - new,
 3. The Gos - pel ful - fill - ing, we free the op - pressed,
 4. With grace still a - bound - ing, we change the world now;

for - ev - er trans - form - ing, we fol - low the Way,
 to - geth - er pro - claim - ing a still wid - er view.
 com - pas - sion in - still - ing, di - ver - si - ty blessed.
 the Spir - it as - tound - ing is show - ing us how.

Good News for the poor, lib - er - a - tion for all;
 With Spir - it - led call - ing to dream and to dare,
 We pray that the Spir - it will make us all one,
 As sis - ters and broth - ers, we join hand in hand

to - geth - er we an - swer the life - giv - ing call.
 we la - bor for heal - ing, for peace ev - ery - where.
 by bridg - ing di - vi - sions so Love's work is done.
 to bring new cre - a - tion through - out ev - ery land.

Words: Jann Aldredge-Clanton

Music: Welsh hymn tune

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11.11.11.11

Closing Prayer

Tejai Beulah
Coordinator of Partnerships and Black Church
and African Diaspora Specialization

One: Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kin-dom in our world today. Gracious God, because Jesus taught us to trust you in all things, we hold to his word and share his plea:

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where nations budget for war while Christ says, "Put away your sword,"

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where countries waste food, and poison soil and water while Christ says, "I was hungry...I was thirsty..."

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where powerful governments claim their policies are heaven blessed while scripture claims that "blessed are the meek,"

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where Christians seek a kingdom in the shape of their own church as if Christ came to build and not to break barriers,

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where our prayers falter, our faith wanes, our light grows dim,

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done.

One: Where and when Jesus Christ calls us,

Many: Your kin-dom come, your will be done. Holy One, you have declared that your kin-dom is among us. Open our eyes to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it. Amen.

Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH No. 577

Benediction

O. Wesley Allen Jr.

Postlude

Today's sermon is a story-sermon--that is, the whole sermon is a narrative. The story is fiction in an attempt to model Jesus' proclamation of good and challenging news using parables. This sermon is a revision of a story-sermon published by O. Wesley Allen Jr., *Good News from Tinyville: Stories of Hope and Heart*, published by Chalice Press.

The hymn "Renewing, Reforming the Church in Our Day" is from *Earth Transformed with Music: Inclusive Songs for Worship*, published by Eakin Press.

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O. WESLEY ALLEN JR.

Preacher, author and scholar O. Wesley Allen Jr. leads the Schooler Institute on Preaching under the theme “Preaching Mark as Parable.”

The Synoptic Gospels are among Dr. Allen’s areas of specialization. He wrote his 1996 dissertation on Luke-Acts; authored an exegetical textbook titled *Reading the Synoptic Gospels: Basic Methods for Interpreting Matthew, Mark, and Luke* in 2000 and revised it in 2013; and contributed the volume *Matthew* to the Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries series in 2013.

His book *Preaching in the Era of Trump* was published in 2017. He is currently working on a critical preaching commentary on the Gospel of Mark.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. from Emory Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and a bachelor’s degree from Birmingham-Southern College. An ordained United Methodist elder, he is past president of the Academy of Homiletics.

