

TUESDAY

February 25

11:30 a.m.	Welcome and registration	Dunn Dining Hall
Noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
12:30 p.m.	Welcome and registration	Centrum Gallery
1 p.m.	Opening chapel	Alford Centrum
2 p.m.	Lecture 1	Alford Centrum
3 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Deliberative dialogue	Alford Centrum
5 p.m.	Dismissal	

WEDNESDAY

February 26

8:30 a.m.	Welcome	Centrum Gallery
9 a.m.	Lecture 2	Alford Centrum
9:45 a.m.	Break	
10 a.m.	Workshop	Alford Centrum
11 a.m.	Closing chapel	Alford Centrum
Noon	Dismissal	
Noon	Optional lunch	Dunn Dining Hall

Leah Schade, an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has pastored congregations in suburban, urban and rural contexts. She is associate professor of preaching and worship at Lexington Theological Seminary and served as the 2024 president of the Academy of Homiletics.

She earned her Master of Divinity degree and Ph.D. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary).

Dr. Schade's most recent book, *Preaching and Social Issues: Tools and Tactics for Empowering Your Prophetic Voice*, was published in November 2024. She also is the author of *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide*, *Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit* and *For the Beauty of the Earth*, a creation-centered Lenten devotional.



Valerie Bridgeman serves as dean and vice president for academic affairs at MTSO, where she also serves as associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible. She is the founder and CEO of WomanPreach! Inc., which partners with MTSO in providing practical training and nurturing community spaces that empower preachers across the country. Bridgeman holds a Ph.D. from Baylor University, a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University.

CULTIVATING RACIAL RESILIENCE



MTSO is offering appointed clergy an opportunity to participate in Cultivating Racial Resilience, a year-long training program designed to help them develop an anti-racist conscience and act as change agents within their institutions.

Cultivating Racial Resilience will take place both virtually and in person over three phases, beginning in April and concluding in May 2026. Travel expenses for in-person meetings, including flights, lodging and food, will be covered by MTSO. The goal is for accepted participants give their time and effort to this process and for MTSO to bear the financial costs.

MTSO is currently accepting applications for 10-15 appointed clergy who are eager to learn more about anti-racism from a theological perspective and desire to apply these principles to an existing or new ministry project.

The deadline for applications is March 10. An application and complete information, including a program timeline, are at mtso.edu/resilience.

WILLIAMS INSTITUTE LECTURES

March 25 and 26

Ralph Basui Watkins, the Peachtree Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, will deliver two lectures on ministry in the visual age at the Williams Institute.

Watkins' first lecture, "Imagining a Ministry: The Power of the Image in Envisioning a Future," will take place at 7 p.m. Eastern March 25. The second lecture, "Seeing the Future of the Church: Use What's in Your Hand," begins at 10 a.m. Eastern March 26. Both lectures are in the Alford Centrum. Learn more at mtso.edu/williams.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

One: Help me, Church – I’m running on empty.
I need your encouragement to stay on the journey
and to believe that the wicked will not prevail.
What should I do?

All: **Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.**

One: I’m struggling. All my efforts seem to be in vain.
What should I do?

All: **Trust in the LORD and do good;
Take delight in the Lord,
and God will give you the desires of your heart.**

One: I struggle to stay connected to God, to community, to hope.
What should I do?

All: **Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in God who will act.
God will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

One: I confess that I am impatient and frustrated because evil seems to prosper.
I am overcome with anger and sometimes find myself in a rage.
What should I do?

All: **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

One: I am surrounded by wickedness,
and those who mock us – even mock God.

All: The wicked shall be cut off;
yet a little while, and they will be no more.
Though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

One: How will I endure to the end?

All: The meek - those who wait for the LORD
shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

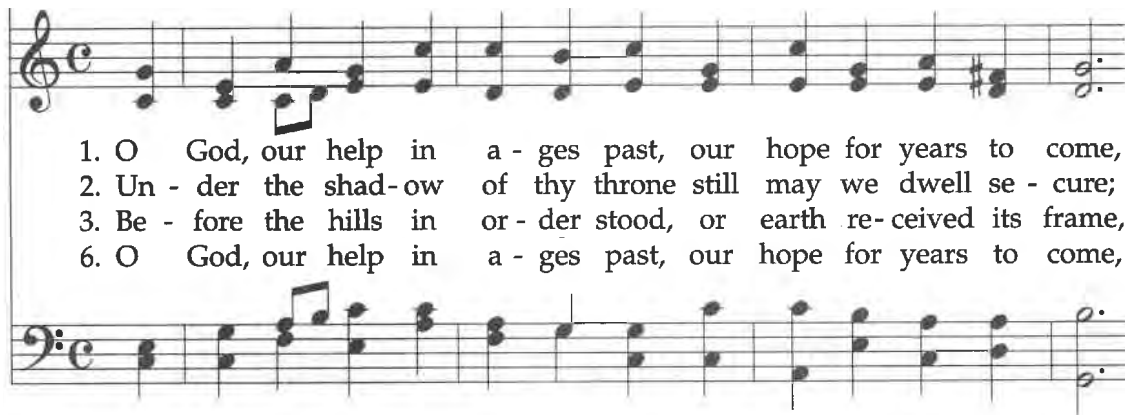
One: Thank you. I needed that. It's good to be together.

All: We gather to remind each other that our salvation is from the Lord.
God is our refuge in time of trouble.
The Lord is our help, our rescue, our salvation.
Together, we take refuge in our God. Together, we lift our voices in worship.

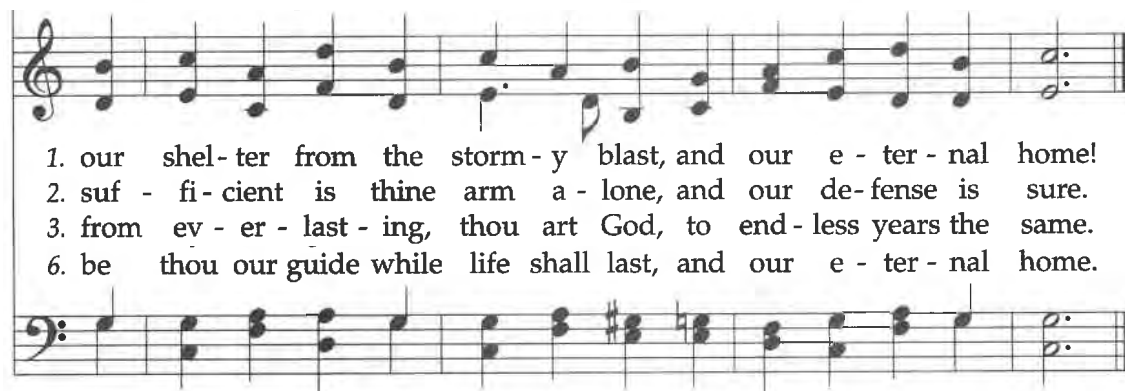
SONG OF PRAISE

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Verses 1, 2, 3, 6



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne still may we dwell se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its frame,
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



1. our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3. from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.
6. be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Maker of heaven and earth,
Creator of relationships,
we praise You for the land
where we place our feet
and build our homes and communities.

We praise You for the seeds You plant,
that root us in Your grace,
and encourage us to create relationships
that nurture growth and support.

As we create and develop thriving networks,
may we find inspiration and new creativity
for the ways we share and sustain our faith
and respond to the world around us.
Open our hearts and our souls to new stirrings of your Spirit today.
Amen.

POETRY

Jaha Zainabu
Artist-in-Residence, WomanPreach!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38

One: A word of life and challenge for a people in need.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Thy Word"

Sung twice

Unison Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Bb7 Eb Ab Eb

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

The musical score is for a unison song in 4/4 time, key of E-flat major. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path." The score includes a key signature of two flats (E-flat major) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: Eb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb.

SERMON

Lessons for Dialogue
from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain

Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Be Still and Know"

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line. Chords are indicated above the treble clef: C, G', C, F. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line. Chords are indicated above the treble clef: D/F#, G, C, F, C, F, C, G⁷, C.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response:

One: We are here. We are listening:

All: *(Sung)* **Be still and know that I am God.**

Be still and know that I am God.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Inclusive version

Our Loving God in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the dominion, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF SENDING

"Filled with the Spirit's Power"



1. Filled with the Spir - it's pow'r, with one ac - cord, the in - fant
2. Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire, that u - ni -
3. Wid- en our love, good Spir - it, to em - brace in your strong



church con - fessed its ris - en Lord. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
ty may be our great de - sire. Give joy and peace; give
care all those of ev - ery race. Like wind and fire with



in the church to - day no less your pow'r of fel - low - ship dis - play.
faith to hear your call, and read - i - ness in each to work for all.
life a - mong us move, till we are known as Christ's, our lives will prove.

BENEDICTION

LITURGY AND MUSIC SOURCES

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-february/sunday-23-february-2025-seventh-sunday-after-epiphany-year-c>

THY WORD

Lyrics by Amy Grant

Music by Michael W. Smith

© 1984 Meadowgreen Music / Sparrow Corp.

BE STILL AND KNOW

Lyrics Psalm 46:10

Music Anonymous

Arrangement Norma de Waal Malefyt

Arrangement © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT'S POWER

Lyrics by John R. Peacey

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 99

One: We gather to worship.

All: Holy, yes holy is our God.

One: We gather in God's presence to bring our worship and praise
for God is merciful and slow to anger.

All: God loves justice and righteousness.

One: God is with us in this moment and in each moment,
so, may we take these moments to listen, to worship, to be present,
to be transformed by God's grace and the power of God's spirit.

All: Holy, yes holy is our God, and so we worship together.

SONG OF PRAISE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry
 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter,
 4. For the church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly

4

of the skies, For the love which from our birth
 of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
 par - ent, child, Friends on earth, and friends a - bove,
 hands a - bove, Of - fring up on ev - 'ry shore

7

O - ver and a - round us lies:
 Sun and moon, and stars of light:
 For all gen - tle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to
 Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:

10

Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

5. For Thyself, best Gift Divine – to our world so freely giv'n,
 For that great, great love of Thine,
 Peace on earth, and joy in heav'n:
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, You come amongst us.

You are present here and we worship You.

You are present in the beauty of the world in which we live
in all its intricacy and diversity.

You are present in the relationships we have with family, friends,
neighbors, and colleagues –

in the laughter and tears we share together.

You are present when justice prevails and mercy is shown,
when we dare to hope of a world which mirrors Your shalom.

We trust in Your promise and Your presence with us

and so, we bring our thanks and praise to you –

our source of wisdom – our source of courage. Amen.

SONG OF WORSHIP

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Verses 1, 3, 4, 5

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; bless our lives that
5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
3. your con - trol; shame our sin - ful self - ish glad - ness,
4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
5. we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

1. bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
3. lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
4. so to save all those we see, so to save all those we see.
5. serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Continues

POETRY

Jaha Zainabu
Artist-in-Residence, WomanPreach!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:28-36

One: A word of life and challenge for a people in need.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Dialogue of Transfiguration

Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us – let us find our rest in thee.
You, our strength and consolation – hope for all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One: And so we sing:

All: *(Sung)* Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

SONG OF SENDING

“Here I Am, Lord”

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame – I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them – my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide – till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

BENEDICTION

Continues

LITURGY AND MUSIC SOURCES

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-march/sunday-2-march-2025-transfiguration-sunday-year-c>

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

Lyrics by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Music by John Hughes

Renewal Lyric Changes © 2015 RH Reinhard

HERE I AM, LORD

Lyrics and Music by Daniel L. Schutte

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