

**Spring 2018**

**Adult Education  
and Formation**

at St. Paul's  
on the Green

# 2017-2018 FORUM SERIES

## God in the Arts:

### *Encountering the Sacred through the Gift of Imagination*

From the beginning of the Church's existence, the arts have played a key role in the life of Christian people. What would worship be without the beauty of music, architecture and



the spoken word? At the same time, Christianity has been central to the flourishing of the arts in Western culture, inspiring (and often funding) composers, poets, sculptors, painters, and so many others. Imagine Bach or Handel, Dostoevsky or C. S. Lewis, da Vinci or Michelangelo without the Church. The Church and the arts seem to have always been inextricably linked.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, we will take the symbiotic relationship between the Church and the Arts as a starting off point in order to explore what is sacred about the arts. What draws us to them, whether as practitioners or observers, and how do we see God in them? We'll hear from a range of speakers, including musicians, composers, and visual artists, as well as leaders of organizations that foster arts in the local community. Some of the speakers will have an explicitly spiritual or religious component to their presentations; many will not. But all of the speakers plan to help us investigate what is special about the peculiarly alluring forms of creative expression we call the arts and consider how we can reflect on what is ultimately important through them.

***Forums take place at 10:10 AM every Sunday morning from September to June in the St. Hilda's Room of St. Paul's on the Green (unless otherwise noted).***

Sunday, February 18

**Love Bade Me Welcome: *The Music of David Hurd***



David Hurd, currently the Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan, is one of the most prominent musicians in the Episcopal Church today, and his hymns and anthems are sung regularly at St. Paul's and parishes throughout the country. Assistant Rector Peter Thompson traces his long career and reflects on some of his most lasting contributions to congregational and choral repertoire.

Sunday, February 25

**Faithful Cross, Above All Other:  
*The Cross & Crucifixion in Christian Art***



The crucifixion was a key event in Christian history, so it should be no surprise that the Cross appears often in Christian art. Felicity Harley-McGowan, Lecturer in Art History at Yale Divinity School and an expert on medieval art, shares a few



significant artistic representations of the Cross and explores what they can tell us about the meaning of the Cross in Christian faith.

Sunday, March 4

**Arts for Healing: *The Transformative Power of Music & Art***



We enjoy music and art, but can they change lives? A New Canaan-based organization, Arts for Healing, assumes they can. Karen Nisenson, Founder and Clinical Director of Arts for Healing, explains how it provides music and art therapy to children and adults from Fairfield and Westchester counties, helping individuals develop skills and overcome challenges through creativity and performance.



**Sunday, March 11**  
**Art in Community:**  
**The St. Philip Artists'**  
**Guild on Creative Work**  
**Together**

*This forum takes place in the ARTWorks Gallery of the Chittim-Howell House.*



Just one block from St. Paul's, at St. Philip Roman Catholic Church, the members of the St. Philip's Artists' Guild share studio space in the church's historic Manice Lockwood Mansion. A few weeks into their show at Seabury Academy's ARTWorks Gallery, the members of the Artists' Guild talk about their own individual work and what they learn from creating alongside one another.

**Sunday, March 18**  
**The Passions of Christ: Musical Retellings of Jesus' Death**



Every year during the 7:30 PM Good Friday liturgy, the St. Paul's Adult Choir sings a musical narrative of the events that lead up to Jesus' death. Such settings, also called Passions, have existed for hundreds of years, and include some of the best-known and most-loved

music of all time. Assistant Rector Peter Thompson looks at the history of Passions, from the original medieval chant and its more elaborate Renaissance adaptations to the famous St. Matthew and St. John Passions of Johann Sebastian Bach and the Broadway passions of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Schwartz, chronicling how views of Jesus' Passion have depended on context and shifted over time.

*No forum on Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) or Sunday, April 1 (Easter Sunday).*

**Sunday, April 8**  
**Fun Home: Exploring Sexuality through Musical Theater**



Kevin Connors



Jim Schilling

Tony Award-winning musical *Fun Home* tells the story of a young woman who grapples with her father's complicated sexuality as she discovers her own sexuality. On the eve of the Musical Theatre of Connecticut's performance of the musical, MTC co-founders and St.

Paul's parishioners Kevin Connors and Jim Schilling preview the show and discuss how it addresses the complex ways in which people love one another.

**Sunday, April 15**  
**The Meaning of Life: Plumbing the Deep Recesses of the Mind Through Psychoanalysis, Poetry, and Spirituality**

How do human beings make meaning of their lives? Or how do human beings unravel the meaning that already exists in their lives? Psychoanalyst, poet, and St. Paul's parishioner Jerry Garguilo once trained to be a priest, and he has spent his whole life exploring the meaning of human life through psychoanalysis, poetry, religion, and related disciplines. Join him for a brief overview of how psychoanalysis, poetry, and spirituality can, together and separately, help us think and talk about what ultimately matters.

**Sunday, April 22**  
**The Truth in Dreams: What Shakespeare Sought to Teach Us in "A Midsummer Night's Dream"**



Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a comedy that still elicits laughs, but it is also a profound meditation on love, fantasy, and consciousness that offers intriguing food for thought. As Shakespeare on the Sound, Rowayton's outdoor Shakespeare festival, prepares its production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Artistic Director Claire Kelly shares her thoughts on one of Shakespeare's most well-known plays and how she plans to interpret the work this year.

**Sunday, April 29**

**Art as Empowerment: *The Keystone House Show***

*This forum takes place in the ARTWorks Gallery of the Chittim-Howell House.*



Keystone House is a Norwalk organization that provides various kinds of support to adults living with psychiatric disabilities, including art classes that help clients express their creative selves. Michelle Beyman, the art instructor who

teaches Keystone House classes, leads a tour of the Keystone House show in the ARTWorks Gallery, and tells us from her own experience how transformative art can be for those living with psychiatric disabilities.

**Sunday, May 6**

**Passing Music On: *Teaching through the Suzuki Method***



The Suzuki method introduces children to instruments through an immersive approach that deemphasizes didactic teaching. St. Paul's parishioner Sara Bennett Wolfe, who teaches cello on the St. Paul's campus, discusses how children learn through the Suzuki method and offers some reflections on the practice of teaching music from her several years of experience.

**Sunday, May 13**

**“Leave it to the Lord”: *God’s Help in Performance Art***

For St. Paul's parishioner and professional trumpeter Charlie Johnson, making music is not always easy. Sometimes he encounters great difficulty while playing the instrument he knows so well and loves so much. Charlie describes how playing the trumpet has enhanced his faith and how God has been present to him in the good times and in the bad.

**Sunday, May 20 at 10:10 AM**

**Clothed with Righteousness: *The Purpose of Vestments***



The finery of worship at St. Paul's can be overwhelming sometimes, even for people who are used to it. Rector Nicholas Lang explains one aspect of that finery—the vestments that clergy and other ministers wear during services. What are the different kinds of vestments and how did they come to be? What do they signify and what purpose do they have in worship? Join

Nicholas as he addresses these and other questions.

**Special Excursion: *The Met’s Heavenly Bodies Exhibit***

**Wednesday, May 23, leaving at 8:30 AM at the South Norwalk Train Station**



Find out more about vestments during a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the new exhibition “Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination.” The day begins with an 11 AM lecture at the museum, followed by lunch and some free time to wander around the exhibition. The day concludes with Evensong at St. Thomas Fifth Avenue

for those who would like to attend. To reserve your spot on this very special excursion, contact Peter Thompson (thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org) by Monday, April 9.

**Sunday, May 27 at 10:10 AM**

**God in the Arts: *A Wrap-Up Discussion***

Over the course of the 2017-2018 program year, the Adult Forum has covered a variety of subjects related to religion, arts, and the intersection between them. Assistant Rector Peter Thompson reviews the main themes explored during the year and leads a discussion on the integral role the arts play in the St. Paul's community.

## Race and Social Justice

Now entering its second program year, the Race and Social Justice group has now been engaged in significant and timely discussions about the role of race in our society for quite some time. All are welcome to join the group as it engages in difficult but necessary dialogue around this most relevant of topics each Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Guild Room. For more specific information about the current focus of the group, see eNews or the Sunday Announcements.

### **Special Race and Social Justice Event: Becoming Beloved Community: *Exploring Race through Story and Song* Sunday, April 22, 5:00PM**



April 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. Where are we as a country now, 50 years later? What have we accomplished and what work is there left to do? Mark Miller, an internationally recognized composer and a strong believer in music's ability to bring about social change, joins the Choir of St. Paul's on the Green as they together draw us into an intimate space and invite us to tell our stories and sing powerful music across the boundaries that separate us.

## Faith in a New Millennium

Now in its second year, the Faith in a New Millennium series seeks to encourage dialogue and discussion about important contemporary issues through compelling and interactive programming featuring distinguished guest speakers.

### **Face-to-Face with White Supremacy: *A Perspective from the Streets of Charlottesville* Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 PM**



Last August, when white nationalists wreaked havoc on the streets of Charlottesville, the interfaith community was there to confront them and to bear witness to a different way. Elaine Thomas, the Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Hoboken, was serving St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church in Charlottesville at the time and helped to organize the counter-protest. In this latest installment of our "Faith in a New Millennium" series, Elaine reflects on those

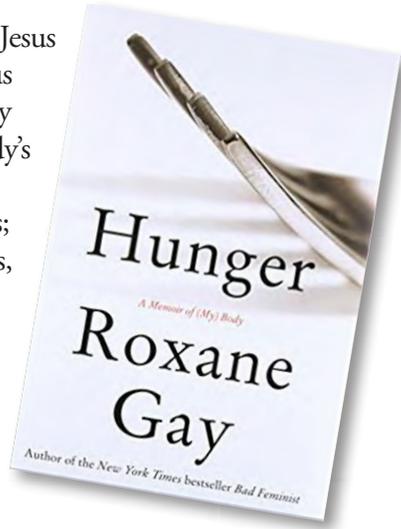
challenging days and calls us to consider our responsibility to speak against evil in all of its forms.

# Lent Series

## Hunger: Sacred Conversations About Our Bodies

Every Lent, we remember that Jesus was hungry. We recall how Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days, painfully aware of his body's need for care and sustenance. Like Jesus, we, too, have bodies; we, too, get hungry (sometimes, for food; often, for something else); we, too experience pain because of our hunger. In Roxane Gay's memoir *Hunger*, she explores her own hunger and the relationship between her hunger, her body, and the challenges her body endures. On Tuesdays this Lent, we will reflect on the stories she shares, as well as a variety of other material (both sacred and secular), in order to begin a more general discussion about bodies and hunger. How can we honor our own bodies and name the hunger within ourselves? And how can we honor the bodies of others and tend to the hungers they have?

Each Tuesday evening starts with an optional service of Holy Eucharist at 6:30 PM in the Lady Chapel. A talk and facilitated conversation follows at 7:00 PM in the Undercroft (Parish Hall), directly below the sanctuary of the church. A light dinner is served.



Participants are encouraged, but not required, to read *Hunger* in advance of the sessions. Please note that the book and the Tuesday sessions involve extended discussion of serious themes (including body weight concerns, eating disorders, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence) that may be difficult for some people. If you have any doubts about your ability to handle such material, contact Peter Thompson ([thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org)) for more details.

### Topic Schedule:

- 2/20 - Body Size, Body Appearance, and Body Image
- 2/27 - Food, Eating, and Eating Disorders
- 3/6 - Race, Ethnicity, and National Origin
- 3/13 - Gender, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation (featuring guest facilitators Anthony Crisci and Jennifer Hudson)
- 3/20 - Sexual Harrasment, Sexual Assault, and Domestic Violence
- 3/27 - Good Sex



# Lenten Icon Workshop

For centuries, icons have connected faithful Christians with the divine, representing people or stories of the Christian tradition in highly symbolic ways. Icons are “written” to be used in prayer, but the writing, or creation, of them is also itself an exercise in prayer. During a five-day workshop at St. Paul’s on the Green led by experienced iconographer Mary Street, participants will have a chance to write their own icons of the pieta (a scene depicting Mary holding Jesus after he has descended from the cross) using acrylic paint and gold leaf. Each day begins with a short meditation appropriate for the Lenten season, and step-by-step instruction is provided in an atmosphere of quiet and reflection.

Please note that the workshop takes place from Monday, February 26th through Friday, March 2nd, 9 AM to 4 PM each day. A \$350 fee covers most materials for the workshop. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Peter Thompson ([thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org)) for more details.

