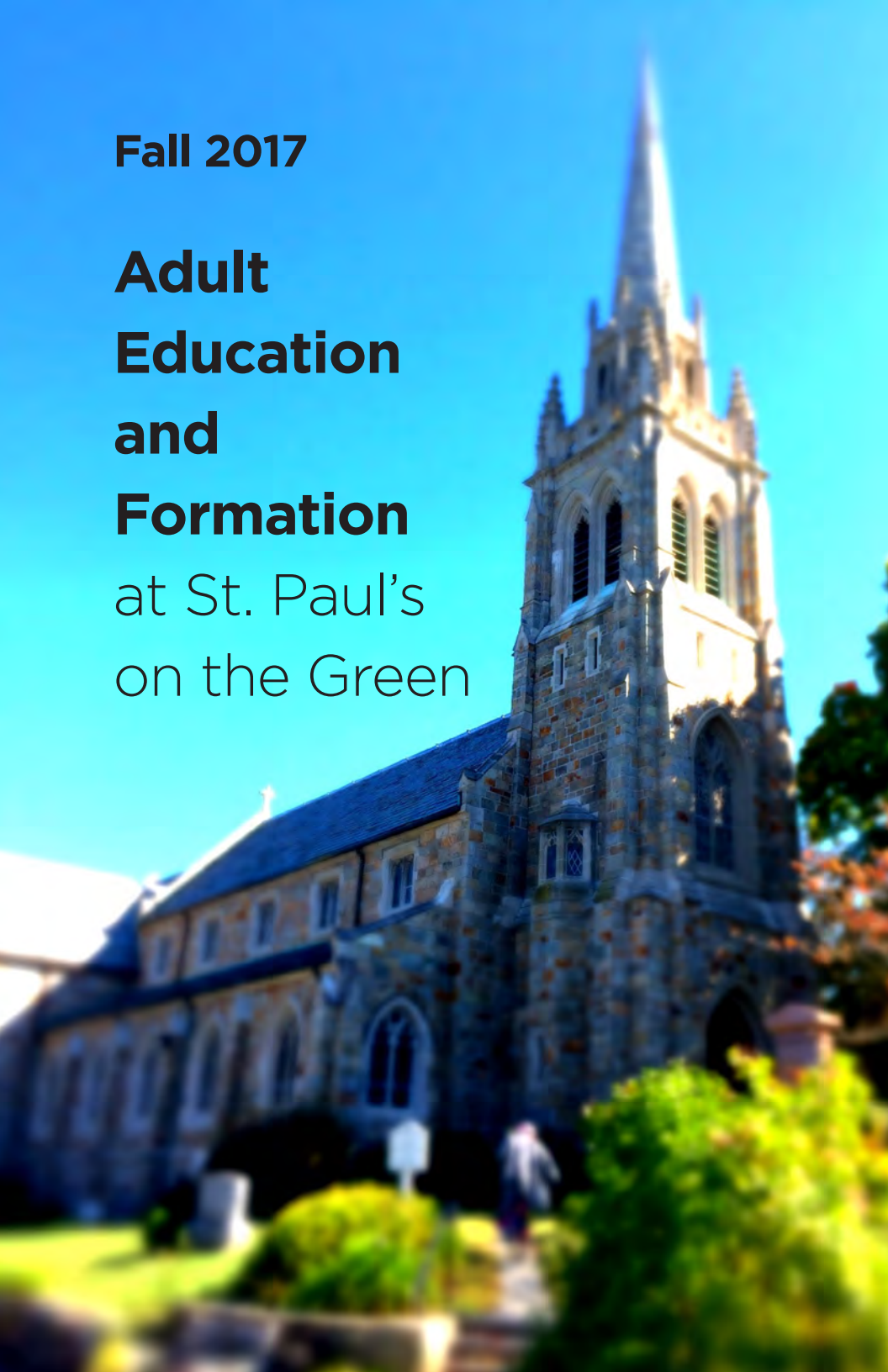


**Fall 2017**

**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, September 10**

### **Responding to Music through Visual Art: *ARTWorks Preview with Natasha Karpinskaia***

*This forum takes place at 10:10 AM in the Chittim-Howell House.*



In partnership with Seabury Academy of Music & the Arts, our forum series this year will feature previews of upcoming exhibitions at the ARTWorks Gallery in residence at St. Paul's. On September 10th, Russian-American artist Natasha Karpinskaia takes us on a tour of her show, "Pictures at an Exhibition," which opens later that day. Karpinskaia will speak about the musical composition of the same name by Modest Mussorgsky, which serves as the inspiration for the show, and offer her thoughts on how spirituality, classical music, and visual art can contribute to and be in dialogue with one another.

**Sunday, September 17**

### **Visions of the Spiritual in Poetry: *Mary Oliver, Rainer Maria Rilke, Mark Doty and More***

*This forum takes place at 10:10 AM in the Chittim-Howell House.*



Norwalk Poet Laureate Laurel Peterson returns to St. Paul's to lead a discussion on how poetry can help us access and think more deeply about the spiritual world. Peterson will reflect on works by early twentieth century central European poet Rainer Maria Rilke and modern American poets Mary Oliver and Mark Doty, focusing specifically on how these three poets conceive of the otherworldly and divine.

**Sunday, September 24**  
**How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place:**  
***Explaining Church Architecture***



Even people who don't regularly attend church typically know what a church is "supposed" to look like. Specific styles differ, but generally one can assume that a church building will resemble one of only a few particular architectural templates. But how did the ideals of church architecture come to be and why do they, for the most part, remain in place? Join Assistant Rector Peter Thompson to learn the history behind church architecture and explore how church architecture both corresponds and clashes with Christian teaching.

**Sunday, October 1**  
**Music for the Youngest Generation:**  
***An Introduction to Kindermusik***

*Young children and their parents are especially invited to this forum.*

Have young children or grandchildren? Or care about the exposure of young people to the arts? Music educator and St. Paul's parishioner Lynne Linnartz introduces us to Kindermusik, a music education program for young children she has long facilitated, and presents her thoughts about early education for children and why the arts are so important to their growth and development.

**Sunday, October 8**  
***How to Write a Musical: A Composer Shares his Secrets***

Whether it's *The Sound of Music* or *Evita* or *The Book of Mormon*, everyone enjoys a good musical. But ever wonder how it all comes together so seamlessly and ingeniously? Musical theater composer and St. Paul's parishioner Clay Zambo has been writing and playing for musical theater for decades. In this forum, he outlines the process of writing a show from conception to execution. Come and have a behind-the-scenes look at how the magic happens!

**Sunday, October 15**  
***A Life of Guitar: Annalisa Ewald on the Joys of Making Music***



Guitars became ubiquitous in the twentieth century for their use in rock, folk and other kinds of popular music. However, there is a long tradition of classical guitar that predates the twentieth century, stretching back hundreds of years. St. Paul's parishioner and professional guitarist Annalisa Ewald outlines that tradition and what she finds so compelling about it, plays some of her favorite selections, and tells stories from her experiences as a professional musician.

**SPECIAL FORUM • Sunday, October 22**  
**Participating in God's Mission:**  
***A Conversation with Bishop Ian Douglas***



On the day of his regular visit to St. Paul's, the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT), shares his thoughts about the current state and the future of ECCT. Under Bishop Douglas' leadership, ECCT has refocused its priorities around participating in God's mission in the world. In this forum, Bishop Douglas will reflect on what the mission of God means for St. Paul's, ECCT, and the larger Church.

**Sunday, October 29**  
**Weaving Hope:**  
***How Refugees Knit Together a Future by Making Clothes***



Artistic creation is a meaningful medium for self-expression, but for many people artistic creation is also the source of their livelihood. The Our Woven Community program of the Burroughs Community Center in Bridgeport provides recent refugees with the opportunity to make clothing and, in the process, to utilize their creativity, find community, and support themselves.

Representatives of the program talk about how the program works and the powerful impact it has on participants' lives. Clothes made by participants will be available for sale.

**Sunday, November 12**

**Don't Shoot, Just Listen:**

***Music as Activism for Social Change***



Is music just something pretty and enjoyable, of no real use when the world is in pain? Or can music ever lead to tangible change in the world? Choral conductor Knox Sutterfield is the co-founder and associate artistic director of Inspire, a New York-based choir that seeks to promote action on social issues through its singing. Inspire's first concert will be presented in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, an organization of families affected by the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that seeks to promote change around the issue of gun violence prevention. On the eve of that concert, Knox articulates his vision for the choir and explains why he believes belief that music can serve as a vehicle for social transformation

**Sunday, November 19**

**Altars, Shrines and Amulets:**

***Worship and Devotion with Physical Objects***

In Christianity and in many other religious traditions, devotion often has a material aspect to it. Actual physical objects, when they are not worshipped themselves, help facilitate the worship of a nonmaterial deity. Gay Schempp, the curator of a traveling exhibition called "Altars, Shrines, and Amulets," and Dennis Bradbury, the owner of the 22 Haviland Street Gallery where the exhibition will be on display in South Norwalk, preview the exhibition and discuss the varying ways in which physical objects can contribute to religious worship and personal devotion.

**Sunday, November 26**

**For Unto Us a Child is Born:**

***The Enduring Legacy of Handel's Messiah***

Though not originally composed for Advent or Christmas, Handel's Messiah has become irrevocably associated with Christmas for many musicians and music lovers. How did the piece carve out for itself such a prominent place in the

musical canon? What makes it so meaningful and so fun? At the start of the annual Messiah season, Assistant Rector Peter Thompson leads a fast-paced journey through Handel's rich and monumental work, still exciting after all these years.

**Sunday, December 3**

**There's No Business Like Show Business:**

***The Intricate Process of Producing a Play***

A leader in theatrical programming in Fairfield County, the Westport County Playhouse has been operating for over 80 years and draws large audiences to its five productions each season. David Dreyfoos, Director of Production for the Playhouse, gives us an inside look into how the Playhouse operates and provides an overview of all the many things he has to do to get a show up and running.

**Sunday, December 10**

**Deconstructing the Architecture of History:**

***The Lavish Ambition of the Lockwood Mathews Mansion***

An iconic Norwalk structure, the Lockwood Mathews Mansion was built as a home for a railroad tycoon in the mid nineteenth century and is a well-preserved example of how big money lived in the Victorian age. A docent from the museum that now occupies the mansion shares the history of the building, paying particular attention to its architecture and what the architecture reveals about the time in which the mansion was built.

**Sunday, December 17**

**Christmas Cheese: *The Carols of John Rutter***

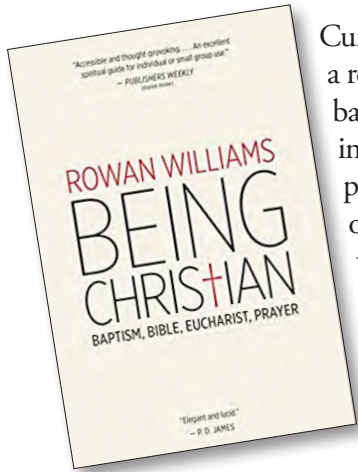


Despite being agnostic about Christianity, living English composer John Rutter has written scores of Christmas carols sung every year by choirs around the world. Though accessible and loved by many audiences, these carols are not always respected by professional musicians. Assistant Rector Peter Thompson dissects Rutter's carols—both the unashamedly cheesy and the more restrained and high-browed—as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in all its splendor.

## Theology Tuesdays

On **Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, delve deeper into a theological topic in gatherings based on a recent book and led by Assistant Rector Peter Thompson. Reading the book in advance is helpful, but not required. Sessions are held in the Guild Room.

### **September 19th through October 17th: *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer* by Rowan Williams**



Curious about the basics of Christianity? Or want a refresher? Consider attending this 5-week series based on Rowan Williams' short but profound introduction to the Christian faith. While intended primarily for those preparing for Confirmation or Reception, anyone interested is more than welcome to attend. Sessions will include discussions on the book, videos, scripture reading and more.

**September 19th:** Baptism (Chapter 1)

**September 26th:** Bible (Chapter 2)

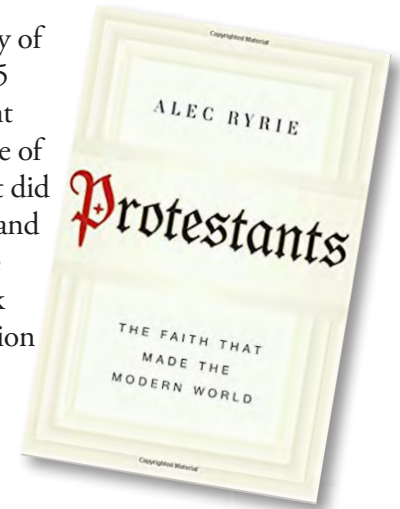
**October 3rd:** Eucharist (Chapter 3)

**October 10th:** Prayer (Chapter 4)

**October 17th:** Being Anglican/Episcopalian

### **October 24th through November 21st: *Protestants: The Faith that Made the Modern World* by Alec Ryrie**

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's document, the 95 Theses, that sparked the Protestant Reformation and changed the face of Christianity forever. What impact did the Protestant Reformation have and what does Protestantism look like today? Alec Ryrie's sweeping book informs our wide-ranging discussion about how Protestantism came to be and why it still matters.



#### **October 24th:**

The Reformation Age, Part 1  
(Introduction-Chapter 3)

#### **October 31st:**

The Reformation Age, Part 2 (Chapter 4-Chapter 6)

**November 7th:** The Modern Age, Part 1 (Chapter 7-Chapter 9)

#### **November 14th:**

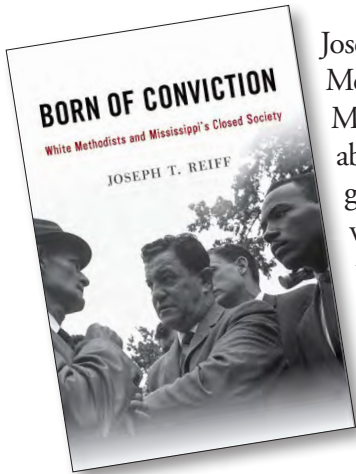
The Modern Age, Part 2 (Chapter 10-Chapter 12)

**November 21st:** The Global Age (Chapter 13-Epilogue)

# 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.

## September 20th through October 11th: *Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi's Closed Society* by Joseph Reiff



Joseph Reiff's study of how a minority of white Methodists challenged segregation in 1960s Mississippi provides a framework for a discussion about faith-based resistance to racial injustice in general. How can we learn from and build on the work of the Civil Rights Movement in our own time? What role can those who benefit from white privilege play?

**September 20th:** Introduction & Part 1:  
Prelude to a Crisis

**September 27th:** Part 2: Born of  
Conviction: Call and Response

**October 4th:** Part 3: What Became of the Twenty-Eight?

**October 11th:** Part 4: Memory and Legacy

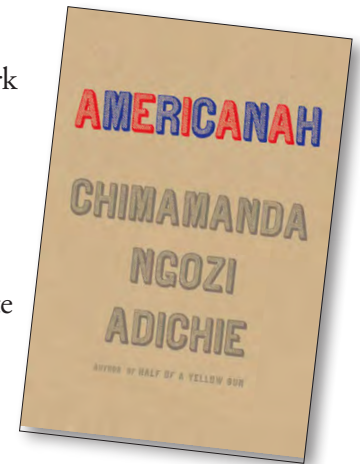
## October 18th: Special Guest: *Jeff Grant, Executive Director of Family Reentry*



Last spring, the Race and Social Justice group read Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, which led to a desire to make practical contributions to the fight against inequality in the criminal justice system. Jeff Grant, the Executive Director of the Bridgeport-based Family Reentry program, offers his thoughts about how best to make such contributions from his experience running a large prison reentry program in the area.

## October 25th through December 13th: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Nigerian-American Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novel was a New York Times bestseller and the winner of a variety of literary awards and is a searing but beautiful meditation on the complexity of race in modern America. *Americanah's* fictional but quite resonant narrative will stimulate reflection on the sometimes obvious, sometimes subtle, always important ways in which race impacts our everyday lives.



**October 25th:** Part 1

**November 1st:** Part 2

**November 8th:** Part 3

**November 15th:** Part 4

**November 22nd:** No session

**November 29th:** Part 5

**December 6th:** Part 6

**December 13th:** Part 7

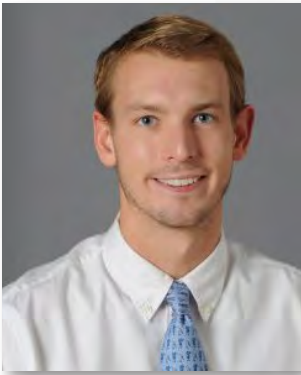
# Faith in a New Millennium

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.

**Monday, November 6th at 7:30 PM**

**Religion and Foreign Policy:**

***The Challenges and Opportunities of the Current Landscape***



In an increasingly globalized world, the different faith traditions of the world can no longer be considered merely as charming curiosities, interesting phenomena that are not substantively relevant to the concrete issues facing governments and people. Rather, now more than ever, understanding religious thinking and customs is essential to addressing pressing issues related to economics, human rights and militarized conflict. Christopher Washnock, who serves as the Assistant Director of Outreach at the Council

on Foreign Relations, outlines his understanding of why religion is so important in this contemporary moment and points to a number of regions around the world where the significance of religion is particularly apparent. The audience will be invited to ask questions of and engage in conversation with the speaker during the event.

## Coming Up in 2018...

**An Icon Workshop with Iconographer Mary Street**

**9 AM to 4 PM, February 26-March 2, 2018**

Limited space available: Email [thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:thompson@stpaulsnorwalk.org) to reserve your spot today!