



The United Thank Offering and Bexley Seabury Seminary present

THE THEOLOGY OF GRATITUDE: HUMAN EXPRESSIONS WHILE LIVING IN A COMPLEX WORLD



About the Conference

The theme for our conference feels even more apt today than it did a year ago when we began planning it: The Theology of Gratitude: Human Expressions While Living in a Complex World. Since we began, the world has become more complex, and due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) our in-person gathering in Chicago has become an online forum. While the structure and location have changed, the purpose has perhaps become even more important: how do we practice gratitude as Christians in complex and challenging times? We hope you will join us.

Join Us Online...

The United Thank Offering (UTO) and Bexley Seabury are moving *The Theology of Gratitude* Conference online in order to ensure the health and safety of all involved as well as to include more people in participating in the conference.

[Please register here to receive the login code.](#)

The conference is now free and if you paid to register previously, you will receive a reimbursement. However, you will need to register so that we can ensure we have enough space on Zoom to accommodate everyone who wants to attend.

or Join Us Later.

We will also record the main sessions and have those available to watch later for those who cannot attend the live webinar conference. Those videos will be available [here](#).

Schedule for Friday, April 24

- 9:00 am Welcome/Opening Remarks**
Sherrri Dietrich, UTO Board President
& Julie Lytle, Ph.D., Bexley Seabury
- 9:15 am Keynote Presentation**
Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D.
- 10:15 am Miigwech & Blood Memory: *Gratitude as a Multi-Lineage Spiritual Practice***
the Rev. Hillary D. Raining, DMin.
- 10:45 am Ingratitude Is Not an Option: *Gratitude as Imago Dei***
the Rev. Thomas Bohache, DMin.
- 11:15 am For What Shall We Give Thanks? On Gratitude, Justice, & the Gospel of Christ**
the Rev. K.D. Joyce
- 11:45 am Break Out Discussion Groups**
- 12:15p - Lunch Break**
- 12:45 pm Institutional Justice and The Virtue of Gratitude**
the Rev. Nathaniel Warne, Ph.D.
- 1:15 pm Gratitude as a Performative**
the Rev. Armand Larive, Ph.D.
- 1:45 pm A Theology of Gratitude for Rising Generations**
Stephanie Townes
- 2:15 pm Break Out Discussion Groups**
- 2:45 pm Response to Papers**
The Rev. Micah Jackson, Ph.D.,
President of Bexley Seabury
- 3:15p Closing Remarks**
Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D.
- 3:45 pm Concluding Prayer and Blessing**
the Rev. Canon Heather Melton, UTO

Keynote Presentation



Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D. will unpack ways in which gratitude is a radical practice that is needed in our communities today. Building off of her writings in her recently published book: *Grateful: the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* in which she writes: **“Gratitude is defiance of sorts, the defiance of kindness in the face of anger, of connection in the face of division, and of hope in the face of fear. Gratefulness does not acquiesce to evil – it resists evil.”**

Bass is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics.



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Meet the Scholars

Bexley Seabury

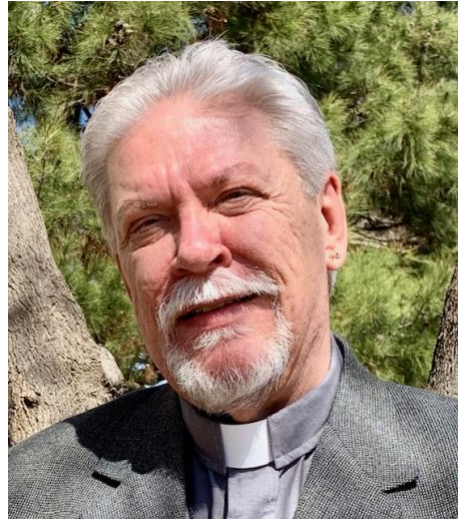


Seminary



Miigwech & Blood Memory: *Gratitude as a Multi-Lineage Spiritual Practice*

The Rev. **Hillary D. Raining**, DMin. (www.hillaryraining.com) is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and serves as Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Gladwyne, PA. In addition to her priestly duties, she is an author, scholar, beekeeper, mother & wife. She is also the founder of the online wellness and spirituality community called [The Hive](#). She has recently published: [Joy in Confession](#), published by Forward Movement, [Faith with a Twist - A 30 Day Yoga Journey](#), published by Forward Movement, and [Revisiting the Rite of Reconciliation: All May, Some Should, None Must...But What if We Did? Worship Vol 92](#).



Ingratitude Is Not an Option: *Gratitude as Imago Dei*

The Reverend **Thomas Bohache**, D.Min. retired from pastoral ministry in 2018, having served congregations for thirty years. He has taught at the seminary level and has led workshops and courses at local churches and denominational conferences throughout the U.S. He is the author of [Christology from the Margins](#) (SCM Press, 2008) and contributing editor of [The Queer Bible Commentary](#) (SCM Press, 2006) and [Queering Christianity: Finding a Place at the Table for LGBTQI Christians](#) (Praeger, 2013). He is presently a member of St Christopher's Episcopal Church in Lubbock, TX, where he preaches and teaches regularly. He also lectures on sexuality and diversity in the sociology department at Texas Tech University. He and his husband, the Rev. Tom Simmons, were married in Massachusetts 15 years ago.



For What Shall We Give Thanks? *On Gratitude, Justice, and the Gospel of Christ*

The Rev. **K.D. Joyce**, a native Baptist and North Carolinian, studied Political Science and National Security at UNC-Chapel Hill before discerning God's call - first to ordained ministry, and then to the Episcopal Church. She received her MDiv from Yale Divinity School and an MA in Christian Theology from Durham University in the United Kingdom, where her research focused on kenotic Christology and the lived experiences of stone butch lesbians. When not at her parish, she enjoys working as a co-managing editor of [Earth & Altar Magazine](#), playing video games, and debating Sacramental Theology with her wife, who is a Presbyterian minister.



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Meet the Scholars

Bexley Seabury



Seminary



Institutional Justice and The Virtue of Gratitude

The Rev. Nathaniel A. Warne Ph.D. is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Notre Dame in the Center for Social Concerns. He is also a transitional deacon in the diocese of Northern Indiana. He has published in a number of academic journals and recently published a monograph entitled *The Call to Happiness* with Lexington Press/Fortress Academic.



Gratitude as a Performative

The Rev. Armand E. Larive, Ph.D. graduated from Bexley Hall in 1961, served a long pastorate at St. James Episcopal Church in Pullman, WA, Home of Washington State University, where he won a Templeton Prize for teaching in the philosophy department. In retirement, he authored *After Sunday: A Theology of Work*.



A Theology of Gratitude for Rising Generations

Stephanie Townes is the Missioner for Congregational Vitality: Youth and Young Adults for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. She completed her MA in Theological Studies with a concentration in Christian Earthkeeping from Portland Seminary at George Fox University in 2017, and she is passionate about the future of the Church and young people's place in that future. Stephanie's publications and presentations include *Missional: A Youth Bible Study* and *Singleness and Practical Theology: How (Not) to Make God in Our Own Married Image*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: [UTO](#) or [Bexley Seabury](#) or Email [Heather Melton](#)