



LICENSED PREACHER IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF RHODE ISLAND

Effective preaching requires confidence in engaging Scripture and the content of our faith, crafting context-appropriate sermons, and effectively proclaiming God's word. The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and Pathways for Baptismal Living at Bexley Seabury Seminary are partnering to offer the preparation you need to be a successful preacher. This course has been designed to meet the requirements of the Canons of the Episcopal Church for licensing after approval by Bishop Nicholas Knisely.

CONFIDENCE IN ENGAGING SCRIPTURE AND THE CONTENT OF OUR FAITH

The Fundamentals of Faith Series was created to ensure pastoral leaders feel confident in their knowledge of and comfortable speaking about the essential elements of their faith. Each course is designed to survey a topic over 4-weeks of blended synchronous and asynchronous activity. Participants will engage course materials, online discussions (chat-like) and live web conference for about 2-3 hours/week. Those preparing to be licensed to preach will take three of the six courses:

Foundations for Baptismal Living

January 4 – 30, 2020

Baptism is our initiation, as Christians, into a radical new life with God and a commitment to orient that life toward God's Mission. Recognizing how we interpret our experience of God and express our understanding of God are foundational elements of Baptismal Living. This course explores how we think theologically and how to engage in theological reflection. Together we will identify our own theologies, grapple with how social location influences our interpretations, and practice ways to interact with those who think differently.



Elizabeth Mae Magill (Liz) is a writer, pastor, and workshop leader living in Berlin, Massachusetts. She is the author of *Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers: Growing Relational Food Ministries* and the founder of Worcester Fellowship, an outdoor church reaching adults without homes. She is currently rector at Ashburnham Community Church in Berlin. A graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School (MDiv) and Brite Divinity Schools (DMin), she is ordained with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

Engaging God's Story

January 31-February 27, 2021

Besotted is defined as "strongly infatuated" or "obsessed." The writers and editors and traditioners of the Bible were besotted, with God certainly, but also with community, and with life as it ought and can be lived. This course offers an orientation to the Bible and its sources and is designed with the hope that you, too, will be besotted as we wrestle with how to approach, appreciate, and apprehend God's Story and the sometimes perplexing, sometimes delightful, sometimes maddening, and always incisive texts that have endured and thrived for millennia.



Victoria (Vicki) Lynn Garvey's passion for learning and teaching, and the Church, are reflected in her professional career where she taught at nearly every level from 2nd graders through graduate school. Now retired from seminary teaching, she was a Biblical languages and biblical theology professor at Seabury-Western (one of our federation schools). A church consultant and well recognized lay leader, Vicki's passions for learning, teaching, and Church most recently were fed in her position as Bishop's Associate for Lifelong Christian Formation in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago where she even got paid for doing what she loves. Her doctorate in Biblical languages and Biblical Theologies is from Vanderbilt.

Theology and Ethics

February 27 – March 27, 2020

God. Humanity. Sin and Redemption. Church and Mission. These are the core tenants of Christian doctrine as expressed in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. Course participants will wrestle with them and pay particular attention to the ways theology interacts with the church's engagement with the mission of God.



Marcus Halley serves the Episcopal Church in Connecticut the Dean of Formation. He joined ECCT in October 2019 after serving as Rector of Saint Paul's Church on Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis and Missioner for Evangelism for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. In addition to serving as Dean of Formation, the Rev. Halley serves as Missional Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven, CT. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte, NC), the Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta, GA), and the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee, TN.), Marcus is an ordained Episcopal priest.

CRAFTING CONTEXT-APPROPRIATE SERMONS AND EFFECTIVELY PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Sermon Boot Camp

April 11 – June 12, 2020

Sermon Bootcamp offers a deep dive into the process of crafting context-appropriate sermons and effectively delivering them. This is an online course designed to facilitate community, collaboration, and learning. It includes live and recorded instruction; asynchronous large and small group discussions; live Zoom sessions for discussion and Q & A; and two peer-appraised sermons. This will be our process:

- PRE-COURSE: ORIENTATION: 60-minute LIVE SESSION via zoom
- WEEK 1: Daily 60-minute LIVE SESSION via zoom
Daily 60-minute completion of homework and sermon prep.
- WEEK 2-7: One 60-minute LIVE SESSION via zoom per week
2-hour/week of video instruction, reading, homework, and written chat discussion
- WEEK 8: 1-hour to watch and appraise a peer's sermon
15-minutes for the course evaluation

Incorporating a rhythm of sermon preparation developed by Backstory Preaching, participants will practice a process of studying the sermon text adapted from *Lectio Divina*: read, study, express, and pray, as well as BsP's "Heart of the Message" process to clarify and articulate your sermon's message and content. Participants will also appraise sermons based on BsP's definition of an effective sermon, with two sermons of your own and two of your peers.



The Rev. Dr. Lisa Cressman is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director of more than 25 years (M.Div., Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley; D.Min., Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis), serving congregations in Indianapolis, Minnesota, and Texas before becoming the Founding Steward of Backstory Preaching. Launched in 2016, BsP is the first and only online "conference center" to help preachers thrive in the craft, process, and spirituality of their preaching. I've published two books on preaching, *Backstory Preaching: Integrating Life, Spirituality, and Craft* (The Liturgical Press, 2018), and *The Gospel People Don't Want to Hear: Preaching Challenging Messages* (Fortress Press/Working Preacher Books, 2020).



The Rev. Susan R. Ironside, is an Episcopal priest serving as Rector of Grace Church, Madison, NJ. A faculty member for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, she graduated from General Theological Seminary in 2010 and received their Bishop of Newark Preaching Prize. She is passionate about preaching and forming preachers around the country in an on-line mentoring project. She previously served as Rector of the Church of St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville in the Diocese of New Jersey and has served on various committees in the Diocese of New Jersey including the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Liturgy. Prior to seminary, Ironside had a career as a Registered Nurse, working with adults in crisis, so pastoral care has an important place in her life and schedule.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Participants will need a device capable of high speed internet connections and web conferencing (camera, speakers/headset, microphone). While you will be able to access course material on a mobile phone or tablet, the larger screen size of a laptop or desktop is highly recommended.
- Chrome is recommended for the most reliable internet streaming.
- Zoom is used for live (synchronous) discussions: <https://www.zoom.us>. The specific class url will be provided to course registrants before the first class.
- Pathwright is the learning management platform: <https://bexleyseabury.pathright.com/library>

