

Harry Emerson Fosdick Lecture on Preaching

Preaching in a Time of Crisis

Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen, Lead Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Rev. Angela Khabeb, Senior Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Augsburg University Campus Ministry

Preaching in a Time of Crisis

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located just off of Lake Street in the 3rd Precinct, found itself at the heart of the explosive response to the brutal killing of George Floyd and the centuries of trauma that preceded his death. During the months that followed the uprising, the church responded by distributing donated food, diapers, toiletries, plywood for boarding up broken windows, cleaning supplies, and tools to the community. This remained a primary part of Holy Trinity's work throughout the summer and fall of 2020. Pastors Rasmussen and Khabeb share their insights on preaching during this time of crisis and reflect on how these experiences continue to shape their understanding of theology and ministry.

Today, the Office of Campus Ministry at Augsburg University in conjunction with Rev. Greg Renstrom and St. Ninian Press offers our fifth Harry Emerson Fosdick Lecture on Preaching entitled, "Preaching in a Time of Crisis!" Our lecturers are Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen, Lead Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Rev. Angela Khabeb, Senior Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

We are grateful for your presence among us to share in this morning time of reflection, conversation, and worship as we recognize the importance of resurrection hope in honor of the great 20th Century preacher, Harry Fosdick.

Morning Schedule in Hoversten Chapel and via Zoom

- 10:00 am: **Welcome** by Rev. Babette Chatman, Augsburg University Campus Pastor and Director of Campus Ministries
 Greeting by Paul C. Pribbenow, Augsburg University President
 Introduction to the Fosdick Lecture by Rev. Greg Renstrom and Pastor Babette Chatman
- 10:10 am: **Lecture** "Preaching in a Time of Crisis"
 Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen and Rev. Angela Khabeb
- 11:00 am: **Q & A Session**
- 11:20 am: **Break**
- 11:30 am: **Daily Chapel** in Hoversten Chapel, Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen and Rev. Angela Khabeb, Preaching
- 11:50 am: **Go in peace**

“Preaching in a Time of Crisis”

Daily Chapel

Worship as part of the Fosdick Lecture on Preaching

*Welcome to Campus Ministry’s Daily Chapel at Augsburg University.
We are blessed by your presence among us.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME/INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this time of worship honest with ourselves and each other that all is not right within us, within our institutions and communities, within our city, our country, and in the world.

God of grace: grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.

Come, let us worship God, who laughs and cries with us. Let us praise the One whose suffering encompasses the breadth of our pain, and whose delight surpasses our deepest joy.

We worship the God who knows our thoughts and feelings even before we name them. We honor the one who welcomes our laments as well as our songs of thanksgiving.

May all the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN The People Walk

ELW 706

Refrain / Estribillo



Un pue - blo que ca - mi - na por el mun - do gri -
The peo - ple walk through-out the world to - geth - er and



tan - do: “¡Ven, Se - ñor!” Un pue - blo que bus - ca en es - ta
cry out, “Come, O Lord”; the peo - ple who long to claim the



vi - da la gran li - be - ra - ción.
prom - ise, God's lib - er - at - ing Word.



1 Los po - bres siem - pre es - pe - ran el a - ma - ne - cer de un
1 The poor ones of the world a - wait the dawn of hope, when
2 You broke the bonds of sin, un - tied the cap - tive's hands, re -
3 The life - blood of the world is shed in mind - less war; and



dí - a más jus - to y sin o - pre - sión. Los
jus - tice will shine and make op - pres - sion flee. The
leased us from fear and slav - 'ry to the law. We
fam - 'lies de - sire a home where con - flicts cease. With

Refrain / Estribillo



po - bres he - mos pues - to la es - pe - ran - za en ti: ¡Li - ber - ta - dor!
emp - ty hands of all are raised to you, Lord God: oh, set us free!
lift our hands in hope, we put our trust in you, O God of love.
all the world we lift our hands in hope to you, O God of peace.

Text: Juan A. Espinosa, b. 1940; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: UN PUEBLO QUE CAMINA, Juan A. Espinosa

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

HOMILY

Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen and Rev. Angela Khabeb

SENDING SONG

Lead With Love

Melanie DeMore

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love (put)
one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching: Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen and Rev. Angela Khabeb, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Liturgists: Rev. Babette Chatman and Rev. John Schwehn, Augsburg University Pastors

Musicians: Andrea Sorum, Campus Ministry Musician; Destiny Uttecht, cantor

A Word of Gratitude

This event was made possible by many hands and hearts. First and foremost, thank you to the Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen and the Rev. Angela Khabeb for agreeing to enter into this venture. By the offering of your gifts, we enter again into God's hope for us and for the world. Also, to the Events staff at Augsburg University for logistics. And to Rev. Greg Renstrom and St. Ninian Press for imagining the possibility of this event. We also thank Rev. Justin Lind-Ayres for his assistance in planning and publicizing this lecture.



Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)

Harry Emerson Fosdick, the founding minister of Riverside Church in New York City, was regarded by Martin Luther King, Jr., as “the greatest preacher of this century.” One of liberal Protestantism’s most influential voices, Fosdick was a proponent of ecumenical Christianity, pacifism, and civil rights, whose radio sermons and writings reached millions.

Fosdick was born in Buffalo, New York, and earned his BA at Colgate University (1900), his BD at Union Theological Seminary (1903), and his MA at Columbia University (1908). Fosdick became pastor of New York City’s First Presbyterian Church in 1919. He sparked national controversy in the 1920s for challenging Christian fundamentalism’s literal reading of the Bible and rejection of historical biblical analysis, and was forced to resign from First Presbyterian in 1925 because of

it. After his resignation, millionaire John D. Rockefeller, Jr., asked Fosdick to head Park Avenue Baptist Church. When he declined because he did not “want to be known as the pastor of the richest man in the country,” Rockefeller responded: “Do you think that more people will criticize you on account of my wealth than will criticize me on account of your theology?” Fosdick accepted on the condition that the church be nondenominational, and the nonsectarian Riverside Church was born.

As Riverside’s pastor until 1946, Fosdick was also professor of practical theology at Union Theological Seminary. He wrote, “I am commonly thought of as a preacher, but I should not put preaching central in my ministry. Personal counseling has been central. My preaching at its best has itself been personal counseling on a group scale.

Fosdick was also a visible proponent of social gospel Christianity. In a copy of his own 1958 memoir of the boycott, *Stride Toward Freedom*, King inscribed, “If I were called upon to select the foremost prophets of our generation, I would choose you to head the list.” After receiving the book, Fosdick replied, “We are all unpayably in your debt, not only for what you did but for putting the story down where thousands of people can read it.”

Before each preaching event, Fosdick said, “My silent prayer rose each Sunday before the sermon started: ‘O God, some one person here needs what I am going to say. Help me to reach that person!’” This Fosdick Lecture in Preaching seeks to carry that prayer forward reaching out with pastoral sensitive, a call to social action, and a commitment to the God of grace found in great love story of scripture.

This material is a compilation from the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Global Freedom Struggle online encyclopedia (kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu) and the “Introduction” written by Henry Pitney Van Dusen from *Riverside Sermons* by Harry Emerson Fosdick (1958).

Previous Fosdick Lectures

2016	William Kent Krueger	“Storied by God”
2017	Rev. Dr. Amy Butler	“Good New/Bad News: Preaching the Gospel and the Headlines”
2018	Rev. Mark Hanson	“Unbind Them! Let Them Go! Preaching Resurrection Hope”
2020	Rev. Dr. David Lose	“Does Preaching Still Matter? More than Ever!”