

Deep River: Praying the Spirituals

Rev. Ann Jefferson

Director of Community Life and Spiritual Care,
Pacific School of Religion;
Associate Pastor of Worship and Liturgy,
City of Refuge United Church of Christ, Oakland

Saturday, March 12, 2016

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

(continental breakfast at 9:30 AM)

Ben's Room, 340 Irving

(entrance on Irving Street side of building)

The practice of *Lectio Divina* has a long and rich history as a Christian devotional practice designed to enliven the Word and words of God in our hearts and daily living. In similar manner, African-American Spirituals hold the history and power of life-affirming transformation in word and sound. In this workshop, Rev. Ann Jefferson will lead the group in exploring a fusion of the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* using the Spirituals as the sacred text. Participants will have the opportunity to delve into the richness of both traditions to discover a fresh way of building our faith and practice for our contemporary settings. The hope is that this will also provide a way to deepen each participant's own Lenten Journey. Singing experience is welcomed, but not required. The only "requirement" is to come with an open and listening heart.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Ann Jefferson, a 34-year resident of the Bay Area, currently works as Director of Community Life and Spiritual Care at Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley, CA. Beyond PSR, Ann serves as Associate Pastor of Worship & Liturgy at City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland and has been a musician and music director of several congregations throughout the region.

Rev. Jefferson enjoys working with circles of learning and leadership to inspire hearts toward greater spiritual reflection and transformative action. She is also passionate about preaching and creating sacred liturgies and liturgical items customized for a variety of congregational, family, and community settings. It is her goal to engage in more of this creative work through her own venture, Rhythms of Grace Creations, and in October of 2012 and May 2013, she realized her dream to conduct a concert of her own sacred compositions and arrangements. She brings 30+ years of experience to her study and teaching of the history of African-American sacred music. A key planner of the African-American hymn festival for the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada conference held in Berkeley in 2008 and a recipient of a 2010 Heritage Keepers= Award from the Friends of the Negro Spirituals, Ann has taught numerous seminars in this subject area. These include several PSR short courses and presentations in collaboration with the Center for Arts and Religion in Education (CARE) of the Graduate Theological Union; a seminar on African-American women hymn and gospel pioneers at the 2010 conference of the Hymn Society; Gospel music as well as a contemplative practice workshop utilizing the Spirituals at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe; and a presentation in last year=s Jazz Center Series taught by Linda Tillery.