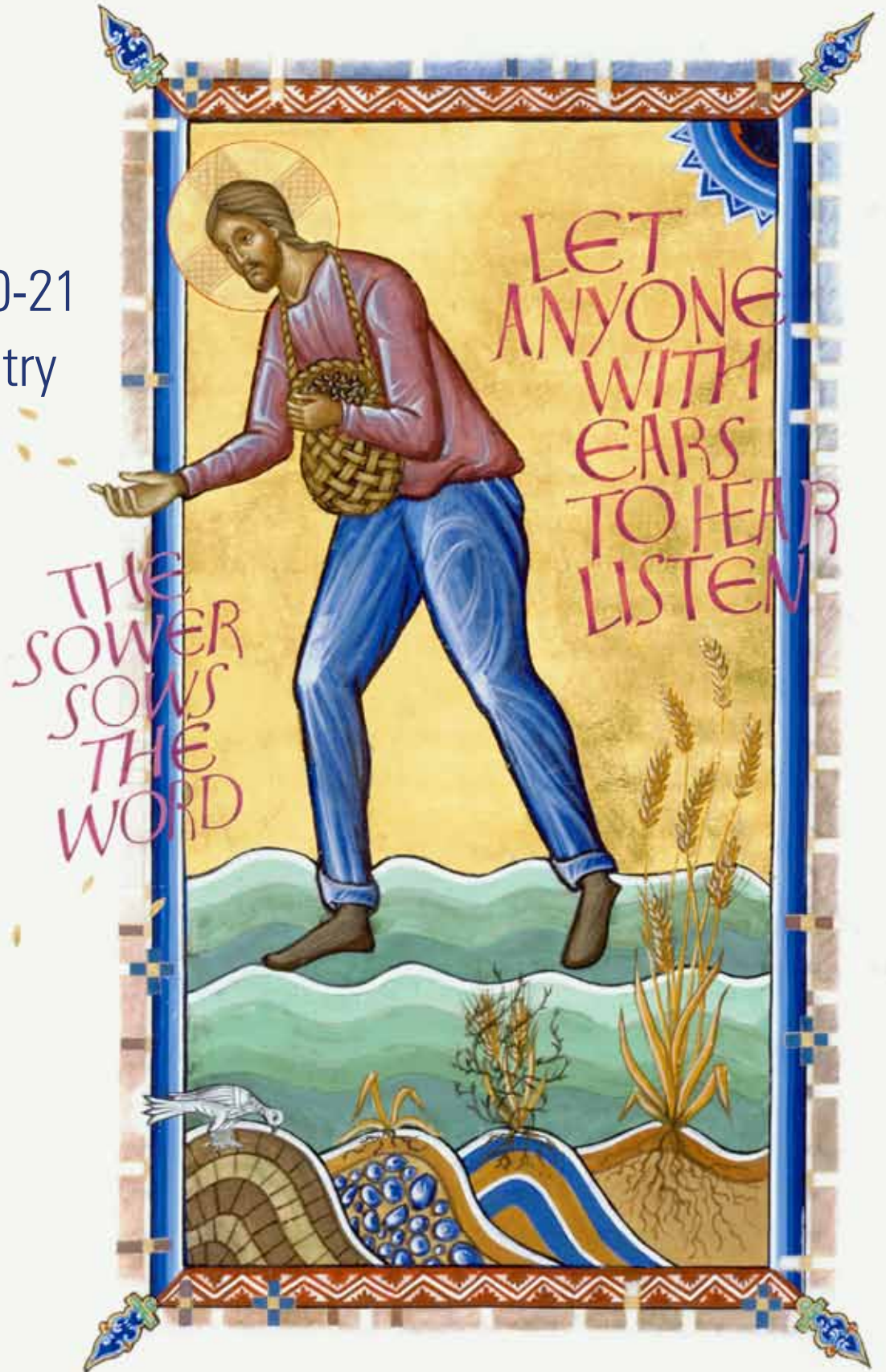




MERCER
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Fall/Winter 2020-21
School for Ministry
CATALOG





MERCER
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**From a “School
of Theology”
forming men for
the priesthood ...**



Mercer the early days

The Mercer School began in the post-WWII period to encourage men employed full-time to become Episcopal priests to fill the need for pastors for churches growing in the new communities springing up during the postwar period. The model for the School was a four-year version of the curriculum offered in three-year courses of study offered at residential seminaries. The level of work and commitment were comparable to that of any advanced degree professional academic program.

Through year end 2020, the School will meet online via Zoom on one Saturday each month, from September through January.

The fall-winter semester dates are: **9/19; 10/17; 11/21; 12/12; 1/16 2021.**
Class sizes are limited.

Follow the School for Ministry tab on the Mercer website,
or contact Canon Ted Gerbracht, Director of Academic Studies
phone: 516-248-4800, ext. 117
email: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org

CLASSES

OT1 The Pentateuch

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the Pentateuch, the Torah, the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), including a synopsis of their outlooks, ideologies, and theologies. The course pays close attention to their literary traditions, historical and cultural contexts, and thematic structures. Selected passages are studied in detail.

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE

LT1 Liturgical Theology

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructors: Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen,
Rev. Canon Michael Delaney

In liturgical theology, we investigate the church at worship. This introductory study includes methodologies for liturgical theology as well as the history and origins of rituals, sacramental theology, and pastoral rites.

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE



MERCER
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To a “School for Ministry” preparing all for 21st century ministries



Mercer in the 21st century

Until a global pandemic disrupted academic life, we gathered around a table seminar-style, or for larger classes in a horseshoe arrangement. Some students interacted with their instructor via video conference. Lay learners and men and women preparing for ordination engaged in the class side by side. In some classes lay students significantly outnumbered ordinands. As in the early days of Mercer, tuition for classes is funded by the Mercer Scholarship fund, with laity paying \$25 per course.

CH1 The Early Christian Movement

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Canon Ted Gerbracht

Over the centuries, Anglicanism has especially valued the first 500 years of the Worldwide Christian Movement. It was during this seminal period that our patterns of worship, orders of ministry, creedal statements of belief and paths to Christian spirituality were hammered out. Join us as we review the major institutions, issues and personalities which dominate this critical time in the formation of our faith.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

NT2 Gospel of John

NEW

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the Gospel of John, often called the “Fourth Gospel” and seen as a diptych of the “Book of Signs” and the “Book of Glory.” The course looks to the Gospel’s background, literary structure, theological themes, and Christology. Selected passages of the Gospel are studied in detail.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

OT3 Prophecy

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the classical prophets of the Old Testament, particularly Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. The course pays close attention to their literary traditions, historical and cultural contexts, and thematic structures. Selected passages are studied in detail.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



MERCER
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To virtual classes in response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic



Mercer now

Today's classes feel quite different. In mid-March 2020 we scrambled to move our instructors and classes online over seven hectic days. Now we routinely speak of Zoom fatigue, wrestle with IDs and passwords, and fuss with sound and video settings. But travel time to Mercer has been cut substantially; we still can move easily from class to class, and we can see and interact with each other in Gallery mode. Our hope is to conduct our last session in January in person at Mercer or as a Hybrid.

CH3 Episcopal Church History

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin

An historical exploration of the development and form of Anglican Christianity that emerged in the American Episcopal Church from its initial planting in Jamestown in 1607 to the present day. We will consider the development of a new form of church governance, regional differences in practice and polity, missionary strategies, and the overall response of the Episcopal Church to the needs of Episcopal communities of the faithful in the diverse religious landscape of the United States. Our purpose is to prepare you to use history pastorally in your various ministries.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

TH3 The Content of Theology

NEW

Time: Section A (no prior TH courses)
9:00 am – 10:15 am

Section B (if you took TH1&2)
10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Rev. Canon Dr. Bruce Griffith

First semester of a two-term course covering the traditional doctrines associated with Christian theology. First term emphasis will be placed on the Doctrine of God, the Incarnation, the Holy Spirit, and creation. Spring term will cover humanity, the Christian community and its sacraments, sin and salvation, and eternal life. The basic text will be Alister McGrath's *Theology: The Basics (fourth edition)*. This class is taught in two sections. Students with no prior theological course work at Mercer should register for Section A; those who have taken TH1 and TH2 should register for Section B.

Section A [TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

Section B [TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



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The School for Ministry invites your suggestions and feedback about our programs.

In addition to our scheduled meetings as a school, watch for the return of our popular mid-day short "Lunch and Learn" courses.

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phone: 516-248-4800, ext. 117
email: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org

LT3 The Book of Common Prayer: Rubrics, Rites and Resources

NEW

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sean M. Wallace

The structure, use and theology of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, including, as time permits, discussion of supplemental resources, including the *Book of Occasional Services*, *Lesser Feast and Fasts* and the *1982 Hymnal*, as a practical matter for liturgical leaders, and also as a spiritual resource.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

PT5 Practical Theology (Ordination Track Only)

Time: 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr Joseph Diele

The fifth course in a six-session program in ministry style and technique. Over a three-year period, the postulant will study methods of pastoral care using the tools of Theological Reflection, Case Presentation, Role Play, Peer Supervision and Individual Supervision. Students will bring to each session the ministries they are involved with as they begin their process towards ordination.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



MERCER
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Fall-Winter 2020-21: BOOK LISTS for Courses

Books are listed by course number.

Books can be obtained from major booksellers, such as Barnes and Noble (barnesandnoble.com), Amazon (amazon.com), and Abebooks (abebooks.com), often at discounts if third party sellers are used.

For many of these books, there are also e-book versions, such as Kindle.

OT1, OT3

- ♦ John J. Collins, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (3rd ed.) Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018)
This text is used for all Old Testament courses

NT2

- ♦ Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary and Theological Survey* (2nd ed.) Grand Rapids, Mich. Baker Academic, 2018)
This text used for all New Testament courses

LT1

- ♦ Gail Ramshaw, *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Fortress Press, 2009
- ♦ Aidan Kavanagh, *Elements of Rite: A Handbook of Liturgical Style*. Pueblo, 1982
- ♦ Gordon Lathrop, *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology*. Fortress Press, 1998

PT5 Ordination Track Students only

- ♦ W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folks*
- ♦ Ilia Delio, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love*
- ♦ James H. Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

CH1

- ♦ Lyman, Rebecca, *Early Christian Traditions*. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 1999.
- ♦ Barry, Patrick, et al, *Wisdom from the Monastery*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2005 (*optional*)
- ♦ Wilken, Robert Louis, *The First Thousand Years*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012
- ♦ Justo L. González, *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996 (*optional*)

TH3

- ♦ Alister McGrath, *Theology: The Basics, 4th Edition*. John Wiley and Sons., 2018

CH3

- ♦ David Hein and Gardiner Shattuck, *The Episcopalians* (2005)
- ♦ Harold Lewis, *Yet with a steady beat: the African American struggle for recognition in the Episcopal Church*

LT3

- ♦ Neil Alexander, *Celebrating Liturgical Time: Days, Weeks, and Seasons*. New York: Church Publishing, 2014
- ♦ James F. Turrell, *Celebrating The Rites of Initiation: A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers*. New York: Church Publishing, 2013
- ♦ Patrick Malloy, *Celebrating the Eucharist: A Practical Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers*. New York: Church Publishing, 2007