



Iona School for Ministry

The Shape of Salvation:

Humanity, Sin, Christ, Salvation,
Justification, Election and Predestination

Year 3, Ordination Track

October 10, 2020

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Class Objectives

After completing this class, students will be able to:

- Delineate and explain key elements in the central themes of Christian theology – Humanity, Sin, Christ, Salvation, Justification, Election and Predestination – using the vocabulary of ‘systematic’ theology generally, and with respect to Episcopal / Anglican tradition.
- Describe how socio-political questions of gender, race, and identity apply to traditional accounts of human creatureliness, the predicament of sin, and arc of salvation history.
- Confidently articulate the ways in which core doctrinal questions regarding sin and salvation translate into the work of ministry (the world before the text) – including a personal understanding of ‘how salvation works.’

Class Description

This class will be organized via a three-part rhythm of lecture (presentation of material), dialogue (collective response / discussion), and application assignments (creative projects, culminating presentation). Courageous participation will be encouraged, so that students will gain an intellectual understanding of key concepts of Christian / Episcopal theology as well as a keen appreciation for how those concepts may shape an applied practice of ministry within a variety of contexts.

Class Schedule

- I. Check-in, presentation of class outline (trajectory of salvation history)
- II. The human creature (anthropology, ontology)
 - i. as revealed in Scripture
 - ii. as defined by the theological tradition
 - iii. as re-imagined contextually (post-enlightenment, post-modernity)
- III. The human predicament / problem of sin (theodicy, ethics)
 - i. as revealed in Scripture
 - ii. as defined by the theological tradition
 - iii. as re-imagined contextually (post-enlightenment, post-modernity)

- IV. The role of Christ (Christology)
 - i. as revealed in Scripture
 - ii. as defined by the theological tradition
 - iii. as re-imagined contextually (post-enlightenment, post-modernity)

- V. God's work of At-one-ment (soteriology, the Cross)
 - i. as revealed in Scripture
 - ii. as defined by the theological tradition
 - iii. as re-imagined contextually (post-enlightenment, post-modernity)

- VI. Election and predestination (sanctification, pneumatology)
 - i. as revealed in Scripture
 - ii. as defined by the theological tradition
 - iii. as re-imagined contextually (post-enlightenment, post-modernity)

- VII. Culminating Project: *bricolage*
 - i. project work
 - ii. project presentations

Suggested Resources

For further reading:

Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright, *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. HarperOne, 2007.

Cone, James. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Orbis, 2011.

Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*. James Clarke Lutterworth Press, 1991.

Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*. Eedrmans, 2017.

Janet Soskice, *The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender, and Religious Language*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Rowan Williams, *Christ the Heart of Creation*. Bloomsbury Continuum, 2018.

— —. *Being Human: Bodies, Minds, Persons*. Eerdman, 2018.