



SEMINAR

Beyond the Inerrancy Wars: What the 21st century can learn from premodern biblical interpretation

- Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:00 to 13:00
(with breakfast starting at 8:15)
- Location:** All Saints by the Lake
865 chemin Bord-du-lac–Lakeshore, Dorval (Québec) H9S 2C7 • Buses 198, 202, 209... 211
- Speaker:** Rev. Grace Pritchard Burson
Incumbent of the church of All Saints by the Lake
The presentation will be in English. • Questions may be in English or French.
- Participation:** In person or on Zoom
- Cost:** \$15 (free for 1st year Lay Readers) • add \$5 for a simple breakfast

Outlook

In the 21st century, preachers in “progressive” traditions that look at scripture from a historical-critical perspective often find ourselves reacting against “literalist” interpretations from more conservative/evangelical traditions. It can often seem like these battle lines have been drawn for centuries and this is the way it’s always been. But in fact, the contemporary debates about how to read the Bible are only about a hundred years old in their current form, and have their roots in the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation and the seventeenth-century Enlightenment. For a millennium and a half before that, there was a solid consensus among Christian readers of the Bible that every passage of scripture could be read on multiple levels; to claim that a verse of Scripture could mean only one thing would have sounded absurd to Augustine or Thomas Aquinas.

This workshop will look at the history of the “fourfold method” of ancient and medieval Biblical interpretation, reflect on its richness and subtlety, and explore how it can inform our study and preaching today.

Schedule

8:15	Simple breakfast	11:15	Group conversation in response to the workshop session
8:45	Gathering and registration of those who participate in person	11:30	Mini-break
9:00	Opening and Morning Worship	11:35	Small group sessions – Applying the fourfold method to randomly selected passages
9:30	Lecture – The fourfold method: what it is, who used it, and how did we lose it?	12:15	Large group response to the small group work
10:00	Discussion in response to the lecture	12:45	Summing up and final remarks
10:30	Break	13:00	End of seminar
10:40	Workshop – Applying the fourfold method to familiar passages		<i>We invite those present in person to eat their packed lunches and have fellowship together.</i>

Registration

Please register before Wednesday February 19 (noon), using the registration form attached.

- See procedure and payment options on the registration form.

*** IMPORTANT: Your registration form and fee MUST be received by Wednesday, February 19, noon (or sooner)**
Documentation will be provided after registration and registration fee are received.

Questions? Problems? Contact Mark Weatherley (vice-president) • mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca; 514-710-8066