

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION HOSTS

Faithful to the Beautiful Feast of Life: A New Reading of Betrayal and Scandal in Women's Resistance to Redemptive Violence

A Talk By Rev. Rebecca Parker



April 17, 2014
Dinner Boardroom

10:30 am

Twenty-five years ago, feminist and womanist theologians began questioning the Christian doctrine of atonement with the groundbreaking publication of *Christianity, Patriarchy and Abuse* (Pilgrim Press, 1989) and its lead article “For God So Loved the World?” by Joanne Brown and Rebecca Parker. Decades of creative scholarship have followed, from a diversity of women’s voices reflecting an array of ethnic, racial, and cultural perspectives.

In *Proverbs of Ashes*, and her more recent theological work, *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*, co-authored with Rita Nakashima Brock, Parker recovers and advocates for an ancient stream of Christian “Paradise” theology that centers on love for this world, non-violence, and incarnational acts of justice and compassion.

Betrayal of the ethics of the feast table and scandal at the humiliation of crucifixion, form the background this talk, presented on Maundy Thursday in the western Christian calendar. Parker will offer an alternative interpretation of the ritual of “The Last Supper” illuminated by earliest Christian mosaic depictions of the Passion narrative and informed by Paradise theology.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker has been President of Starr King School for the Ministry since 1990 and Professor of Theology since 2000. Dr. Parker is the first woman to serve as the permanent head of an accredited theological school. Dr. Parker will be retiring in June 2014 after serving as president for 25 years.

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