

OSTS Lecture, Winter 2026, 2nd Term

Course: J ***Tender Hearts, Resilient Spirits: Hearing Women's Voices from the Bible***

Lecturer: Reverend Chung Yan Lam

Descriptor:

How many women's names can you list from the Bible? Of these, do you know their stories from their perspectives or the voice of the narrator? Come explore the authentic stories of these influential women in the Bible and how they are important to our faith communities today.

Course Outline:

Week 1: Women of the Nativity

Week 2: Women of the Holy Week

Week 3: The Visionaries
a) Anna
b) Huldah
c) Deborah

Week 4: The Faithful
a) Hannah
b) Elizabeth (John the Baptist)
c) Virgin Mary
d) Mary and Martha
e) Mary Magdelene
f) Dorcus

Week 5: The Extraordinary
a) Esther
b) Delilah
c) Hagar

Lecturer Bio:

Rev. Chung Yan Lam is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and currently serving All Saints' Westboro Anglican Church in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. She is in the process of pursuing doctorate studies in biblical interpretation. She is passionate about theology and biblical studies, exploring new cultures, and eating good food.

Overview

Most Christians can name the Virgin Mary, Martha and her sister Mary, Sarah, Eve, and Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother). They are frequent throughout the church year, especially Christmas and Easter. How about Huldah, Deborah the Judge, Samson's mother, Rahab, and Jael? Have you heard of Dorcus, Anna the prophet, or ventured to explore Delilah's story from her own voice?

Throughout the Bible, in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, the narratives of women and their experiences in biblical times inspire contemporary faithful disciples to live out the concept of "tender hearts, resilient spirits." Women's voices continuously challenge the powerful with an even stronger illustration of resilience through faith. The tenderness each character maintains is experienced as an openness to encounter the divine and God's will on earth. Therefore, our theme is to recover and reclaim the depth of faithful witnesses from women's voices in the Bible.

In this seminar series, you are invited to join me for a 5-week journey to walk in the sandals of women and to explore their stories. We will study the biblical narratives of each character, and discern the contextual and cultural influences on behaviours, decisions, and faithful discipleship. By carving out time for these women's voices in the biblical texts and contexts, we hope to lift the role of women's voices in our current faith communities.