

St. Bart's Adult Education Program

Sunday Readings and Discussions

Advent 2021

Beginning November 28, 3:00 to 4:30

In-Person at St. Bart's, 396 Gilman Road, Yarmouth, ME

Beginning with the inaugural meeting of the 2021-2022 Adult Education Program Discussions, Elizabeth Ring presents the first in a series on the biblical figure of Mary and her spiritual sisters from the Hebrew Bible, Miriam and Hannah:

Scholars and theologians are increasingly providing us with information about the world that Jesus was born into. We know a little about it from the nativity narratives and a smattering of insights into the politics of the Roman Empire. Recently, General Theological Seminary hosted a webinar by the Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker: *Magnificent, Marxist, Mary: Textual Light on Advent's Brightest Star*. The presentation seeks to dispel images of Mary as "meek" and "mild" and replace them with understandings of a brave, radical teenage girl. Exploring stories of Mary's spiritual sisters from the Hebrew Bible, Miriam and Hannah, leads us to appreciate Mary's courage and theology." I hope all participants will take the time to watch this before our first meeting and begin to reflect on their picture of Mary. The URL to access the lecture (which is free, but requires simple registration via your email address) is:

<https://www.gts.edu/upcoming-events/magnificent-marxist-mary-textual-light-on-advents-brightest-star/>

Please join me on November 28 at 3:00 p.m. to explore the complexity of Mary and the women who formed and influenced her. –Elizabeth Ring

For information on this and subsequent series during Advent, Epiphany, and Lent 2021-2022, please contact the program coordinator, Stephen Hahn at hahns@wpunj.edu. The event is open to the public and all are welcome. COVID-19 protocols of the Diocese of Maine will be followed at the event, including masking of all but the presenter and an injunction to refrain from physical contact and to maintain social distance.