

2013 MAHLE LECTURE IN
PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

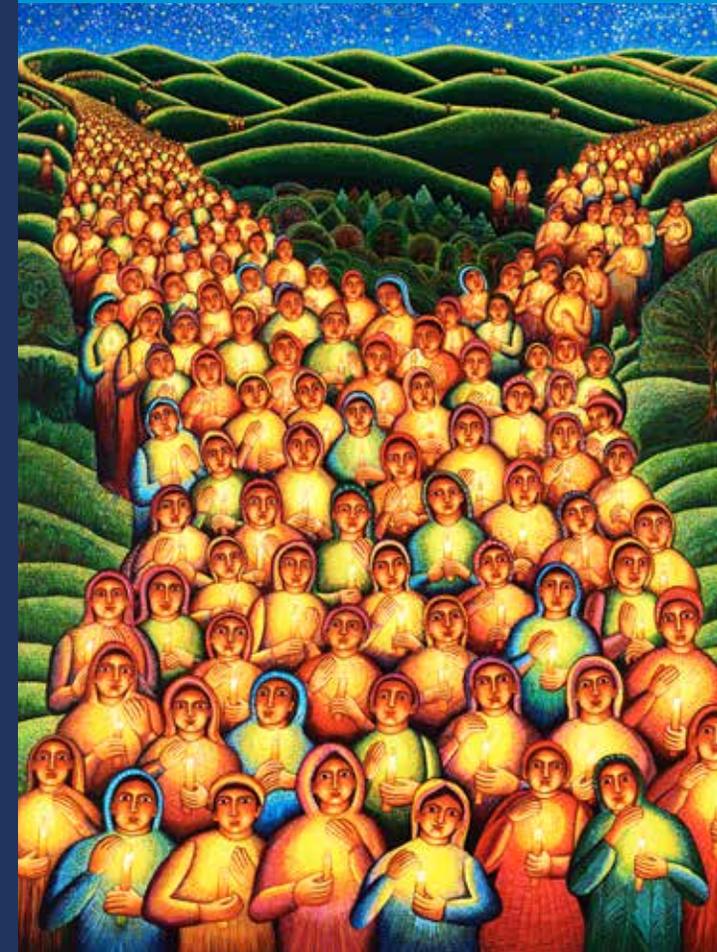


The purpose of the Wesley Center for Spirituality, Service, and Social Justice is to connect the pursuit of the common good with growth of the whole person through compassionate action and courageous reflection.

THE STEPHEN AND KATHI AUSTIN MAHLE ENDOWED FUND FOR PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THOUGHT was created to support the efforts of Hamline University toward exploring and articulating contemporary forms of Christian theology and providing students opportunities to learn its relevance to personal, social, economic, and political life.

www.hamline.edu/wesleycenter
wesleycenter@hamline.edu
651-523-2878

"Festival of Lights"
by John August Swanson



Occupy Religion?

Reimagining the God of the Multitude





THE MAHLE LECTURE IN PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Occupy Religion?

Reimagining the God of the Multitude

guest lecturer **Dr. Joerg Rieger**

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 7 p.m.

Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave., Saint Paul 55104

Free to the public. Parking is available in the Drew Lot, one block east of Sundin along Hewitt Avenue.



Dr. Joerg Rieger is the Wendland-Cook Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. For more than two decades he has worked to bring together theology and the struggles for justice and liberation that mark our age. His work addresses the relation of theology to public life, using tools from cultural studies, critical theory, and religious studies, and reflecting on the misuse of power in politics and economics.

Internationally recognized for his prolific and visionary writing, a selection of his books includes *Occupy Religion: Theology of the Multitude* (2012, with Kwok Pui Lan); *Grace under Pressure: Negotiating the Heart of Methodist Traditions* (2011); *Globalization and Theology* (2010); *No Rising Tide: Theology, Economics, and the Future* (2009); *Beyond the Spirit of Empire: Theology and Politics in a New Key* (2009, with Néstor Miguez and Jung Mo Sung, Portuguese transl.); and *Christ and Empire: From Paul to Postcolonial Times* (2007, German and Portuguese transl.).

Rieger is an elder in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has lectured throughout the United States, as well as internationally. He is on the steering committees of the Dallas Area Christian Progressive Alliance, and Jobs with Justice in North Texas. He is also the co-founder of the Workers' Rights Board in the Dallas area.

Inspired by global mass protests, Dr. Joerg Rieger invites us to “occupy religion” as a public rethinking of the nature, purpose, and functions of theology—God-talk. He claims that the world is in need of liberation more than ever, with the preferential option for the poor at the heart of progressive religious traditions. “Occupy religion” challenges religious doctrines and social teachings that provide sanction and justification for economic and social inequality. It doesn’t mean using force to take over holy sites or worshipping spaces, but rather indicates the conceptualization of a democratic and participatory space for religious life, with active engagement to make this a reality. Dr. Rieger will propose a “theology of the multitude,” based on the Greek New Testament term *ochlos*, meaning a crowd or mass of people, as well as the term *laos*, meaning the common people. By reimagining radical images of God, alternative understandings of power, economics and community emerge, stimulating people to make a difference not only for enough to go around, but in transforming the heart of how our common life is produced.

Sunday, April 7

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church,
511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis, 55403

9:30am Sanctuary Service & 11:00am Adult Education

Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church,
585 Fuller Ave., St. Paul, 55103

4pm–7pm Open Workshop for Congregations and Supper (free)

RSVP to the Wesley Center, 651-523-2750 or nvictorinvan-gerudo1@hamline.edu

Wednesday, April 10 at the Anderson Center, Hamline University

9:30am–11am Progressive Religious Leaders brunch (free)

RSVP to the Wesley Center, 651-523-2750 or nvictorinvan-gerudo1@hamline.edu