



Are the Gospels of **Mary,**
Thomas, & **Truth**
Scripture

Imagining New Ways of Reading
the Bible for the 21st Century

Guest Lecturer: **Dr. Hal Taussig**

Sunday, April 12, 2015

7-9 p.m.

Anderson Center 112
774 Snelling Avenue North
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Pay parking is available in the underground lot of the Anderson Center.

For more information, email Chaplain Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
at nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu.

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Photo: "Iona Cloister Walk" by Rev. Michelle Hargrave '87, Mankato Centenary United Methodist Church



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UNIVERSITY

Sunday, April 12

7-9 p.m. (5:30 p.m. reception)

Anderson Center 112

**Are the Gospels of Mary, Thomas, and Truth Scripture?
Imagining New Ways of Reading the Bible for the
21st Century**

It's time for a new New Testament, says Hal Taussig.

Over the past century, numerous lost scriptures have been discovered, authenticated, translated, debated, and celebrated. Many of these documents were as important as what we have come to call the New Testament in shaping early Christian communities and beliefs.

They were not the work of shunned sects or rebel apostles, but part of the vibrant conversations that sparked the rise of Christianity. Yet, these scriptures are rarely read in contemporary churches. They're usually discussed only by scholars or within a context of gnostic gospels.

Why should these books be set aside? Don't we have a great deal to gain by placing them back into contact with the 27 books of the traditional New Testament and by hearing the full range of voices that formed the early chorus of Christians?

In this lecture, Taussig will address these questions and how he collaborated with a council of scholars and spiritual leaders to choose 10 books to include in his most recent work, *A New New Testament*. Reading the traditional scriptures alongside these new texts offers the exciting possibility of understanding both the new and the old better. It also promises to reinvigorate a centuries-old conversation and to bring new relevance to a dynamic tradition.



Dr. Hal Taussig is in his 16th year as visiting professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he teaches doctoral and master's level New Testament and early Christianity. He also has been teaching for 22 years as professor of early Christianity at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania.

He received a bachelor's degree in religion from Antioch College, a master's of divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and a doctorate from Union Institute.

For 40 years, Taussig has been bi-vocational as both professor and United Methodist clergy, serving on church pastoral staffs and now appointed as the bishop's consultant to churches in crisis in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Taussig has published 14 books, including the more recent *Re-Reading the Gospel of Mark Amidst Loss and Trauma* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013, with Maia Kotrotsits); *A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Recently Discovered Texts* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013); *In the Beginning Was the Meal: Social Experimentation and Early Christian Identity* (Fortress Press, 2009); and *A New Spiritual Home: Progressive Christianity at the Grass Roots* (Polebridge Press, 2009).

He is a founding member of the Jesus Seminar and on the steering committee of the Westar Institute's Christianity Seminar, and he has served on numerous national and international committees of the Society of Biblical Literature. His mediography includes the *New York Times* online edition and op-ed page, *The Daily Show*, and opinion pages of *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Also on Sunday, April 12

10 a.m. worship, 11 a.m. adult education

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Worship Service and Adult Education

Guest preacher and teacher

3-4:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

**A New New Testament: New Ways of Reading the Bible
with Congregations**

Dr. Taussig will be hosted by Rev. Dr. J. Samuel Subramanian, SAPUMC pastor

Free. RSVP: 651-523-2878 or nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu

Tuesday, April 14

7-9 p.m. panel presentation (5:30 p.m. reception)

Anderson Center 111 (reception) and 304/305 (panel), Hamline University, 774 Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

**A New New Testament? Persistent Challenges in
Interpreting Biblical Texts**

Neil Elliott, Ph.D., Episcopal priest and senior acquiring editor in biblical studies at Fortress Press

Sister Joan Mitchell, CSJ, Ph.D., editor of Good Ground Press

Dr. J. Samuel Subramanian, Ph.D., assistant professor of New Testament theology, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Free (pay parking in underground garage). RSVP: 651-523-2878 or nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu

