

# The Morning Star

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## “In the Bleak Mid-winter” by Christina Rossetti

by Dr. Marion Taylor, Professor of Old Testament



I don't have *one* favourite hymn; I have dozens of favourites. I also have favourite hymn writers. And since the focus of my research turned to recovering forgotten interpreters of Scripture, I have been especially

interested in the hymns written by women that are based on Scripture and teach theology. Many of Christina Rossetti's poems/hymns which allude to or quote Scripture actually begin as exegesis. Her hymn “In the Bleak Mid-winter” was first published in *Scribner's Monthly* in January 1872 and set to music in 1906. Rossetti describes the wintery setting of the Incarnation long ago and compares Jesus' humble beginnings with his second coming. Her declaration that “heaven cannot hold Him/ Nor earth sustain” alludes to Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple: “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee” (1 Kgs 8:27). She also draws on apocalyptic images drawn from John's heavenly vision of the earth and heaven fleeing from the One of the throne (Rev 20:11) and other New Testament texts (2 Pet 3:10-11). Rossetti

stresses Christ's humble beginnings as the One worshipped by cherubim and angels is also nourished with “a breastful of milk” and lies in “a mangerful of hay.” Rossetti recognizes Mary's role in the Incarnation and compares her worship of the Beloved with a tangible kiss with that of all the celestial spiritual beings—angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphim.

Rossetti too wants to worship the Christ. But unlike the shepherds and wise men who offered tangible gifts to the Christ child, she can only offer her heart. Here Rossetti may be alluding to the great commandment to love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind (Luk 10:27). She likely means offering her whole self in worship to Christ—something she did throughout her life—and she used her gifts as a writer of poems, hymns, biblical commentaries, devotional works, and liturgies to the glory of God that were meant to draw others also to the worship of the one born in the bleak mid-winter. May we too take time today to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation and like Rossetti offer Him our hearts:

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart.

## Registrar's Office

The last day to drop a class without **academic penalty** is March 9.

*If you are planning to convocate in May, please return the **Graduate Information Form** to the Registrar by Friday, Feb 16.*

If you are intend to take **Ann Jervis' summer course *Time, Participation in Christ, and Theosis in Paul***, an early information session to sign up for presentations has been scheduled for 10:30-11:30am March 9 in the West Lecture Room.

### All Students:

Please sign up for the [Wycliffe E-Newsletter](#) if you have not already. You can find a link on the front page of the Wycliffe website. Receiving the newsletter will help keep you up to date with important events and announcements.



**Please welcome Scott Leveille as our new Residence Don, along with his wife Ann Marie and their five-month old son Henri.**

## Bursary Applications for 2018-2019

If you are a returning student next year, and want to be considered for financial assistance, the first deadline is March 16, 2018. Fill out the application on the [website](#).

*Note: Students with multi-year awards need not reapply, but all single-year awards must reapply.*

*Note 2: If you apply late then you will have missed out on being considered for larger bursaries.*

# Got questions about life

Mondays  
6:30-8:15pm  
Cody Library

Alpha

If you have questions, or are simply curious to learn more about Jesus and what Christians believe, then why not try ALPHA? There is no obligation to attend more than once. For more info, contact Prof. Glen Taylor at 647-464-2886 or stop by his office (Rm 218).

# WYCLIFFESERMONS

# Behold, I Am Coming Soon

A Sermon Series on the Apocalypse

Morning Prayer | Thursdays



## CONVOCATION DATE CHANGE!

Due to scheduling complications, convocation has been rescheduled to Mon, May 7, at 7:00pm. It will no longer be on May 14.

*More information to follow  
for our graduates!*

MON, FEB 26 STARTING AT 10AM  
REGISTER ONLINE!

PREACHING DAY 2018 +++++

## CHRIST MEETS US IN THE PSALMS

Follow the podcast of our own research professor Christopher Seitz, as he comments on the Gospel of Mark and the chosen lectionary readings, providing background, illustration, and description of what in general the New Testament refers to when it speaks of Jesus Christ in "accordance with the scriptures."



## INSIGHTS WITH SEITZ

*The Symphony of Scripture*

The College is hiring paid proof-readers to help some of our international students with their papers. If interested, please contact [Karen Baker-Bigauskas](#).

## Ash Wednesday

### *The Spiritual Disciplines of Lent*

The Primate of the Anglican  
Church of Canada,  
the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz

3:30, Service of Penitence  
(with imposition of ashes)

4:45, Holy Eucharist

6:00, Community Dinner

Carl Spitzweg, *Ash Wednesday* (1860)

## READING WEEK. NEXT WEEK.

*No Morning or Evening Prayer  
No Wednesday Eucharist or Dinner  
No Classes (study up!)*

## Lunch & Learn

*For Faculty & AD Students*

with Karen Stiller

"Author Platforms: How to Build One  
Without Having a Heart Attack!"

Thursday, Mar 8, Leonard Hall  
1:00-1:50pm

# Mark Your Calendar!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Feb 11	12 <b>Alpha, 6:30, Cody</b>	13 <b>MP:</b> A. Pohlod	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>WE:</b> Bp. Fred Hiltz <b>Euch:</b> Bp. Fred Hiltz <b>Israel Trip Leaves</b>	15 <b>MP:</b> P. Robinson <b>EP:</b> G. Taylor	16	17
18	19 <i>Family Day—Wycliffe Closed</i>	20	21	22	23	24
Reading Week						
25	26 <b>Preaching Day</b> <b>Alpha, 6:30, Cody</b> <b>Israel Trip Returns</b>	27 <b>MP:</b> S. Pollard	28 <b>WE:</b> Celebrating Black History in the Church (@the Lodge) <b>Euch:</b> Pastor D.K. McCleary	<u>Mar 1</u> <b>MP:</b> J. Paulsen <b>EP:</b> J. Morris	2 Annual Review	3
4	5 <b>Alpha @ 6:30</b>	6 <b>MP:</b> D. Choi	7 <b>WE:</b> "Spirituality" w/ Gordon Smith <b>Euch:</b> Rev. Dr. Gordon Smith	8 <b>MP:</b> D. Kupp <b>EP:</b> G. Taylor	9	10

## Weekly Chapel Service Schedule

	Service	Sacristan	Officiant / Homilist	Readers, Servers, etc.	Greeters
Mon	MP	C. Upton	J. Paulsen	J. Morris; B. Jenkins	J. Loewen-Samuels
	EP—Taize	A. Pohlod	B. Poole	A. Pohlod; A. Witt (music)	S. Caron
Tue	MP	A. Pohlod	W. Hannam; A. Pohlod (homilist)	J. Andrews; J. Morris	J. Morris
	Evensong	J. Smith	+SGWA	S. Kitchen; J. Mangina	J. Andrews
Wed	MP	B. Poole	+SGWA	S. Campbell; M. Watermann	M. Waterman
	Eucharist	A. Pohlod	+SGWA +Fred Hiltz (homilist)	<b>Readers:</b> M. Waterman; J. Loewen-Samuels; <b>Server:</b> A. Pohlod; <b>Crucifer:</b> S. Pollard	M. Waterman J. Loewen-Samuels
Thu	MP	A. Pohlod	T. Power; P. Robinson (homilist)	S. Kitchen	S. Campbell
	EP	J. Smith	G. Taylor	J. Andrews; S. Caron	S. Caron
Fri	MP		M. Henderson	M. Taylor; J. Loewen-Samuels	J. Andrews
	EP	D. Badgley	G. Westgate	D. Badgley; D. Badgley	



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