

The Morning Star

VOL 34/08 | 5 NOV 2018

Katharina Schütz Zell: Female Protestant Reformer & “Saint”

The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor, Professor of Scripture & Global Christianity



Earlier this week our Principal, Bishop Andrews, reminded the faculty of a day in the calendar when we were to give thanks for figures of the Reformation. This being so, it seems appropriate for me to write about a woman of the Reformation whom I consider to be a saint: Katharina Schütz Zell.

Contemporaries and recent scholars have lauded her with the following titles: “one of the foremost pastoral theologians of the sixteenth century,” “the most published lay theologian of the time,” “A Church Mother, A Pastoral Care Provider, a Writer, Even a Preacher,” and a “mother to the poor and refugees.” She exercised a ministry alongside her husband that was strong (even feisty), independent, and characterized by a true partnership of equal yoking. Katharina Schütz Zell knew many key Reformers personally, including Dr and Mrs Martin Luther. And who married the Zell’s? Martin Bucer! She also knew (and in most cases billeted) Ulrich Zwingli, Philip Melancton and John Calvin. Indeed, Calvin once threw a hissy fit in the Zell’s home, something he later called “shameful” and which Katherina as hostess may have quelled.

She was in many ways ahead of her time. For example, Katharina wrote to Luther to put away the personal discord he had with Ulrich Zwingli on so trivial a matter as minor differences about the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It took a year for Luther to respond (was he put off with her?), but so he did claiming that their differences were no small matter. Be that as it may, any modern-day reader cannot help but recognize that Schütz Zell and her husband modeled an extraordinarily gracious and conciliatory attitude towards those who held wide differences within the emerging Protestant movement.

Katharina was born in late 1497 or early 1498 into a middle-class household of Strasbourg. She was well educated. Her youth was characterized by deep religious zeal on the one hand, and by fears of damnation on the other; no amount of effort on her part

ever seemed enough. By her late teens, she saw the new Protestant teaching begin to influence the city, and by 1518 Matthew Zell was preaching to congregants at the Cathedral. The city turned mostly Protestant. On 3 Dec 1525, Matthew broke canon law and defied Rome by marrying Katharina. In response to the notion of clerical celibacy she wrote a stinging apology in defense of clerical marriages, which won her notoriety throughout Europe.

About the same time, after helping to billet eighty Protestant exiles from Kentzingen, she published a letter consoling their wives. It would be ten years before she wrote again—this was no slump in productivity; it was because in 1524 the city council of Strasbourg *forbade* her from publishing anything polemical or controversial. She then published a preface to a German translation of several hymns of the Bohemian Brethren. Writings that followed include a “lament and exhortation” given in 1548 at her husband’s graveside, an open letter to the city of Strasbourg in 1557 in which she defended her character and that of her late husband in light of accusations made by Ludwig Rabus, a successor to Matthew Zell. Finally, four years prior to her death in 1562, she published her works on Psalms 51 and 130, as well as a profoundly insightful Christological essay on the Book of Psalms.

The following quote illustrates her courage and passion: You remind me that the Apostle Paul told women to be silent in church. I would remind you of the word this same apostle that in Christ there is no longer male nor female and of the prophecy of Joel: ‘I will pour forth my spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters will prophesy.’ I do not pretend to be John the Baptist rebuking the Pharisees. I do not claim to be Nathan upbraiding David. I aspire only to be Balaam’s ass, castigating his master. Scholars of Reformation History know of no more brave, outspoken, proactive and faithful woman of that period than Katharina Schütz Zell. May we have a similar passion to love God and serve the poor, especially those of the household of faith.

Saturday, December 1

4:45 Lessons & Carols

Child care will be available all night, starting with the service.

6:15 Christmas Dinner

Sign-up & tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the Front Desk or on Eventbrite. It is \$10.00 per adult, or \$25.00 for the entire immediate family. Kids will be seated at their own special dinner.

7:30 Talent Show

Sign up for the Talent Show on the Student Council bulletin board!



INSIGHTS WITH SEITZ

The Symphony of Scripture

Need Help with Assignments?

*Make an appointment with
Thomas Power, our theological librarian
tpower@wycliffe.utoronto.ca*

Advent Lessons & Carols Service Choir

Interested in singing in the Lessons & Carols service? Rehearsals begin on Nov 9, are flexible and non-compulsory. No previous experience necessary! Sign up at the Front Desk. Send questions to Esther-Ruth at e.teel@mail.utoronto.ca.



Lunch & Learn

THESIS FAQs



Tom Power
Thursday, Nov 8
1:00-2:00pm
Reading Room

Wycliffe Writing Series

Oct 14, 1:45-3:15

Preparing for Doctoral Studies

Register with Rachel Lott at
rlott@wycliffe.utoronto.ca



Women and Paul: What Our Great-Grandmothers Thought

Saturday November 24th, 2018

Wycliffe College

9:30 A.M - 11:30 A.M.

Tickets: \$10 each

www.wycliffecollege.ca/womensbreakfast2018

#wycliffesermons

Nov 8: Thomas Power
"Generosity"

Nov 29: Peter Robinson
"Self-Control"

Nov 15: Ephraim Radner
"Faithfulness"

Dec 6: David Kupp
"Good and Evil"
(Mt 7:17-19)

THE VISIBLE SHAPE OF
CHRIST'S LIFE IN US

Nov 22: Judy Paulsen
"Gentleness"



This Wednesday

**3:00 Rev. Can. Dr. J. Allison DeFoor & Rev
Canon Aaron Smith (Diocese of Florida)**

*"Growth and Evangelism from the Perspective of
the Second Fastest Growing Diocese in TEC"*

4:45 EUCHARIST (homilist: J. A. DeFoor)

6:00 COMMUNITY DINNER



Mark Your Calendar!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 Morning Prayer: Robb Sykes	7 3:00 Wed. Event: Aaron Smith & Allison DeFoor 4:45 Eucharist: Allison DeFoor 6:00 Community Dinner	8 Morning Prayer: Tom Power Evening Prayer: Glen Taylor	9	10 <i>St. Mike's Convocation</i>
11	12	13 Morning Prayer: Ben Tshin	14 3:00 Event: +Nigel Shaw 4:45 Eucharist: Esther Acolatse 6:00 Community Dinner	15 Morning Prayer: Ephraim Radner Evening Prayer: Glen Taylor	16 <i>IBR Conference (Denver) AAR/SBL (Denver)</i>	17 <i>IBR Conference (Denver) AAR/SBL (Denver)</i>
18 <i>AAR/SBL (Denver)</i>	19 <i>AAR/SBL (Denver)</i>	20 Morning Prayer: Muriel Tse <i>AAR/SBL (Denver)</i>	21 3:00 Event: Integrative Learning Assessment 4:45 Eucharist: Andrew Stuart 6:00 Community Dinner	22 Morning Prayer: Judy Paulsen Evening Prayer: Andrew Shen	23	24 <i>Women's Breakfast</i>
25	26	27 Morning Prayer:	28 3:00 Event: TBA 4:45 Eucharist: Andrew Stirling 6:00 Community Dinner	29 Morning Prayer: Peter Robinson Evening Prayer:	30 <i>Theology in the Pub</i>	Dec 1 <i>Lessons & Carols Christmas Dinner Talent Show</i>

Chapel Service Schedule

CHAPEL SERVICE TIMES

Morning Prayer
Mon-Fri, 8:30a

Wine Before Breakfast
Tue, 7:22a

Taize Evening Prayer
Mon, 5:30p

Sung Evensong
Tue, 5:30p

Community Eucharist
Wed, 4:45p

Prayer & Praise
Thu, 5:00p

Informal Evening Prayer
Fri, 5:30

	Service	Sacristan	Officiant / Homilist	Readers, Servers, etc.	Greeters
Mon	MP	S. Lawley	E. Radner	K. Baker; M. Tse	M. Tse
	Taize	Z. Bartkus	A. Brownlee	G. Klukas	A. Fung
Tue	MP	L. Hurst	P. Robinson; R. Sykes	G. Klukas; P. Karsgaard	S. McCaughtry
	Evensong	S. Lawley	E.-R. Teel	M. Garner; J. Mangina	M. Garner
Wed	MP	B. Poole	+SGWA	M. Tse; R. Henderson	P. Karsgaard
	Eucharist	B. Poole	Officiant: J. Paulsen Homilist: A. DeFoor	J. Lee; J. Sholl; B. Tshin; S. Lawley	A. Fung; J. Lee
Thu	MP	J. Loe.-Samuels	J. Paulsen; T. Power	M. Tse	J. Lee
	P&P	Z. Bartkus	R. Bartlett; A. Johnson	J. Sholl	J. Sholl
Fri	MP	J. Loe.-Samuels	A. Brownlee	M. Taylor	
	Inform. EP	Z. Bartkus	L. Hurst	L. MacKichan	L. MacKichan



Wycliffe College

5 Hoskin Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 1H7 | 416-946-3535 | info@wycliffe.utoronto.ca