

The lecture series, “*Listening to Other Voices*,” is an attempt by the Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey to share their spiritual search for God with friends and visitors to the abbey. In doing so, the monks continue to live the fifteen hundred year tradition of Saint Benedict (480-547) and the monastic movement which followed from his inspiration. For centuries, Benedictine monasteries have been shelters for people in stormy times. They have offered a stable place for people yearning for God, for meaning, for community.

Today, the monks of Hingham continue that tradition. Since 1954 this small community of monks has reached out to thousands of people each year who come for retreats, workshops, conferences, and various social events which bring a sense of community to a people searching for meaning and belonging. Most important to the monks is a life of prayer and reflection. Catholic and non-Catholic alike are welcome to join the monks in Common Prayer which takes place in the Church five times daily. To all visitors, the Benedictine tradition proclaims PAX, peace, and invites you to this special place.



www.glastonburyabbey.org

Questions? Please call 781-749-2155 x300

Friends of the Series

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Series this year. Three categories are offered:

Friends: Donations of \$100 to \$250 to support the cost of maintaining the program.

Patrons: Donations of \$251 to \$499 to help defray the travel expenses of our speakers.

Sponsors: Donations of \$500 or more to offset the honorarium for a given speaker.

You may mail your donation to:
Listening to Other Voices
Glastonbury Abbey
16 Hull St. Hingham, MA 02043

The Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey offer this yearly series as part of their ongoing commitment to interreligious dialogue.

**Events take place at the Morcone Conference Center, 16 Hull Street, Hingham, MA.
Thursday evenings at 7:15 pm.**

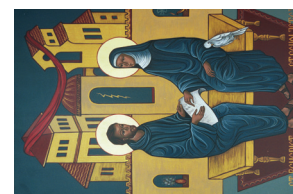
Please check our website for the latest update for each lecture at www.glastonburyabbey.org

**Events are available on Zoom
Registration is required for all presentations**

The lectures are free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

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Listen

WINDOWS INTO THE
SPIRITUALITY OF
OUR RELIGIOUS
TRADITIONS

LISTENING
TO
OTHER
VOICES
OTHER

The Glastonbury Interfaith Lecture Series
Prophetic Voices for Our Times
2026-2027

From Father Timothy Joyce OSB

The Hebrew Scriptures testify to the extraordinary break-out of the prophetic movement, a succession of chosen people to speak truth to kings and to power generally. John the Baptist and Jesus Christ continued this prophetic role. Muslims call Mohammed the last great prophet. Who are the prophets of today who would speak the truth when truth itself is such a neglected and even maligned aspect of contemporary life? We have selected six individuals from various religious traditions who certainly qualify as prophets of our day.

Rabbi Jonah Pesner continues the Jewish prophetic tradition in his ceaseless advocacy of social justice in such happenings such as Christian nationalism, antisemitism and other betrayals of race, class and faith. Doctor David Komodo Kittay speaks to the young at Columbia University and particularly explores the importance of faith in Buddhism. He brings the humanities to the poor of Harlem. Mark Seitz is the Catholic Bishop of El Paso, Texas and has been a strong voice for the human dignity of migrants, refugees, and vulnerable communities.

Omid Safi is an Iranian American professor of Asian and Eastern Studies at Duke University who is a voice for spirituality and social justice. He is known for his leadership in Islamic mysticism, contemporary Islamic thought, and medieval Islamic history. The Rev. Moya Harris, an elder in the AME Church, offers a different perspective as she explores Hip Hop as a source of theological reflection. Bill McKibben, well known environmentalist, will close our series by sharing his insights into the groans of creation.

These are prophets of our time challenging us to be awake and alert to the world we live in, to speak and live the truth.

Program Notes: All programs will be in person at the Morcone Center. We will continue to present the hybrid model, offering the online option as well as the dynamic in person experience of meeting and engaging with the presenter. **All programs begin at 7:15**

Please Note: Online registration is required for ALL lectures. Please check the Abbey website for the latest update for each lecture.

www.glastonburyabbey.org

LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES: PROPHETIC VOICES FOR OUR TIMES

October 15, 2026 - Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner

Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God; Even When It's Hard?

Attending a meeting at his synagogue as a youth group president, the then young Jonah Pesner was present as Board members discussed what to do about the unhoused person sleeping in the vestibule. At the moment he heard someone ask, “Do we really want those people here?”, Rabbi Pesner understood where his journey as a rabbi would lead him. “I was not going to be a Jewish continuity rabbi ... but would challenge my Jewish community not to leave the Torah in the ark, but take it out into the streets where it could live and breathe.” His rabbinic career would be about universalism rather than tribalism. Indeed, Rabbi Pesner has followed that path. Named one of the most influential rabbis in America by Newsweek magazine, he is an inspirational leader and tireless advocate for social justice. Rabbi Pesner’s work has focused on encouraging Jewish communities to reach across lines of race, class, and faith in campaigns for social justice. In a return visit to Glastonbury Abbey, Rabbi Pesner will consider the crisis we face in our nation at this time. In particular he will reflect on the rise of white Christian nationalism, the crisis of antisemitism (and its weaponization), along with the complications of coalitions with partners amidst authentic disagreement - all while we seek to build the multiracial, inclusive democracy that protects all people and their religious traditions.

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. He also serves as Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism, a position to which he was appointed to in 2011.

This lecture is co-sponsored by Congregation Sha’aray Shalom in Hingham

November 19, 2026 – Dr. David Komodo Kittay

Faith in Faith – In Heaven and on Earth

Our speaker, Dr. David Komodo Kittay, teaches philosophy, religion, and technology at Columbia University, where his courses are called “life-changing.” At this lecture, he will explore the importance of faith in Buddhism and life, as well as the limits of faith.

Dr Kittay regularly lectures at Tibet House US, where he serves on the Board, and at Do Ngak Kunphen Ling Tibetan Buddhist Center. He is the founding director and Professor of Philosophy at the Harlem Clemente Course for the Humanities, teaching humanities to economically disadvantaged people in Harlem.

Dr. Kittay’s eclectic background also includes a distinguished former career as a civil rights and trial lawyer, a federal bankruptcy trustee, and a receiver for the SEC, allowing him to bring a deeply grounded, practical perspective to lofty existential topics.

Whether exploring how artificial intelligence impacts human consciousness, the mechanics of reincarnation, or the path to modern enlightenment, he challenges us to look beyond our cultural blinders and question our most fundamental assumptions.

January 21, 2027 – Bishop Mark Joseph Seitz

Deepening Our Moral Witness: Welcoming and Defending Those Who Migrate.

Standing on the words of Pope Leo, who stated that “every migrant is a person and, as such, has inalienable rights that must be respected in every situation,” Bishop Mark Seitz is a vocal and compassionate advocate for the human dignity of migrants, refugees, and vulnerable communities. As the Catholic bishop of El Paso, Texas, Bishop Seitz experiences firsthand the lives of immigrants and their families. Ministering to the migrants detained at Camp East Montana, the largest immigrant detention center in the country located on the installation of the US Army, Fort Bliss, Bishop Seitz not only is in contact with the migrants, but is also involved with their families from all over the country, and because of this, he states that the “border is everywhere now.”

Bishop Seitz has gained national attention as a vocal and compassionate advocate for the human dignity of migrants, refugees, and vulnerable communities. As the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration Committee, he frequently speaks out against mass detentions and deportations, urging a pastoral response rooted in solidarity and gospel values.

February 18, 2027 – Omid Safi

The Islamic Tradition of Radical Love: One God, One Humanity, One Love

Nominated ten times for Professor of the Year at Duke University, Omid Safi brings his melodic and relational style to the Listening to Other Voices Series at Glastonbury Abbey. He is a leading Muslim intellectual, who is committed to the intersection of spirituality and social justice. Omid is deeply committed to liberationist prophetic traditions in the legacy of Martin Luther King, Rabbi Heschel, and Malcolm X. He has been invited by the family of Dr. King to speak at Ebenezer Church on the relevance of Dr. King for today’s America and has delivered the Martin Luther King keynote in the annual national MLK service.

Safi describes the radical lover as being deeply tender in personal interactions with all of humanity and nature, yet fiercely uncompromising when standing up against public injustice. It is not a passive sentiment, but rather an active, lived state of recognizing the inherent preciousness and dignity of every human being.

Omid Safi is an Iranian American professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University. He was the Director of Duke Islamic Studies Center from July 2014 to June 2019 and was a columnist for On Being. Safi specializes in Islamic mysticism, contemporary Islamic thought, and medieval Islamic history.

Mar 18, 2027 – Reverend Moya Harris

If God’s Got Us, We Gone Be Alright. The Prophetic Voice of Hip-Hop Music

Reverend Moya Harris is an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church, clergy staff at Metropolitan AME Church, and Senior Director of Programs at Sojourners. Focusing on voter protection and the intersection of faith and politics, she is also a doctoral candidate at Christian Theological Seminary researching womanist theology, homiletics, and Hip-Hop culture.

This talk explores Hip-Hop as a legitimate and generative site of theological reflection, tracing how the culture that raised a generation of Black preachers can also shape how they read scripture, interpret the world, and proclaim good news. Bringing a womanist lens to this Hip-Hop hermeneutic, the talk outlines the beginnings of a Hip-Hop womanist homiletic, a way of preaching that centers Black women’s lived experience and resists oppression within both the church and the culture, locating in Hip-Hop’s storytelling a distinctly prophetic voice for our times. The talk closes with hope, echoing Kendrick Lamar’s promise that “If God’s got us, we gone be alright.”

Reverend Harris holds a B.S.N. from Towson University and an M.Div. from Payne Theological Seminary, and she is currently advancing her Ph.D. studies in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary. Her research, which focuses on African rhetoric and Black prophetic preaching with a Hip-Hop influence, is a testament to her intellectual curiosity and dedication.

Apr. 15, 2027 – Bill McKibben

Listening to Creation as it Groans: Physical and Metaphysical Crises and Answers

Bill McKibben almost needs no introduction. The American environmentalist, prolific author, and grassroots organizer is widely recognized as one of the world’s most influential climate advocates. He has spent decades spearheading global movements to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. McKibben is founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 for action on climate and justice; and he helped found 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign, which has organized protests on every continent, including Antarctica, for climate action.

McKibben’s 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and since then he has written many additional books, most recently “Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.” His writing also appears regularly in periodicals from the New Yorker to Rolling Stone, as well as on his Substack page. He serves as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, and has won the Gandhi Peace Prize as well as numerous other awards and honorary degrees.