



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THEODICY AND SPIRITUALITY

CENTER FOR BIBLE STUDY

How do we reconcile an all-loving and all-powerful God with a world of suffering? For more than two millennia, Jewish and Christian theologians have offered a panoply of answers to this question, known as “theodicies.” In this class, we will learn how the Gospel of John offers a potentially transformative response to this question of suffering and the human compulsion to blame. By reading John 9 and 10, we will see how the Gospel does not offer a theodicy, but rather a *theodical spirituality*, an experience of praying the question of suffering and remaining open to a divine response. Using the book *Theodicy and Spirituality in the Fourth Gospel* (Fortress Academic, 2020) as a guide, we will interpret the meaning of the Gospel’s rich symbols of day, night, vision, blindness, sheep, the Good Shepherd, and the wolf. In our reading, we will learn how the Fourth Gospel invites us to recover the healing potential of lament and protest prayer.



Course Instructor: The Rev. Daniel London, PhD, is the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Eureka CA. He has taught courses on Christian Spirituality, the Gospel of John, World Religions and Christian Social Ethics at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Graduate Theological Union, and the Episcopal School for Deacons. He has presented papers at academic conferences across the country and his work has been published in *Anglican Theological Review*, *Journal of Comparative Theology*, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, and *The Bulletin for Colloquium on Violence & Religion*.