

Hannah Black, Ph.D.

Visiting Professor of History and Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Divinity, Clare College, University of Cambridge, 2023
- M.Phil. Divinity, Clare College, University of Cambridge, 2019
- B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies, Torrey Honors College, Biola University, 2017

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025–2027 Visiting Professor of History and Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary
- 2024 Lecturer in Early Christianity, Yale Divinity School
- 2024 Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Yale Divinity School
- 2022–2025 Research Fellow, Jonathan Edwards Center, Yale Divinity School

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Affective Atonement: Retrieving Gregory of Nyssa's Biblical Imaginary for Constructive Soteriology (in review with Baylor University Press).

Gregory of Nyssa On the Life of Virtue. Translated by Hannah Black and Jonathan Farrugia (under contract with St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Popular Patristics Series).

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Black, Hannah. "Sea Monsters in Soteriology: The Misconception of Gregory of Nyssa as a Ransom Theorist." *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (early view): <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijst.70024>.

"The Kingdom of God Has Come Near to You," in *Have Mercy: Faith and Politics in Perilous Times*, ed. Ruthanna Hooke, Kyle B. T. Lambelet, and Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, New York, NY: Church Publishing (forthcoming).

Book Reviews

Review in *Modern Theology* of Gabrielle Thomas, *The Image of God in the Theology of Gregory of Nazianzus* (2021).

Review in *Cultural Encounters* of Lynn H. Cohick and Amy Brown Hughes, *Christian Women in the Patristic World: Their Influence, Authority, and Legacy in the Second through Fifth Centuries* (2018).

Review in *Cultural Encounters* of David A. Lambert, *How Repentance Became Biblical: Judaism, Christianity, and the Interpretation of Scripture* (2018).

Publications for Popular Audiences

“The Story of Nicaea,” *Earth & Altar* magazine, January 5, 2026.

“Who is God?,” in *Earth & Altar* magazine, Christianity 101, April 12, 2021.

“Finite Words: A Reflection on T.S. Eliot’s ‘Four Quartets,’” in *Macrina Magazine*, no. VII, 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025–2027	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Louisville Institute
2025	Award of Excellence, Polly Bond Awards, Episcopal Communicators
2023–2025	Fellow, Morse College, Yale University
2024	Dean’s Scholar, Virginia Theological Seminary
2020–2022	Decani Scholarship, Clare College, University of Cambridge
2022	Don Stebbings Prize, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
2021	Short-Term Predoctoral Fellowship in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks
2021	Clare–Yale Mellon Fellowship, Clare College, University of Cambridge
2021	New Visions in Theological Anthropology PhD Student Participation Grant, University of St Andrews
2019–2021	Liddon Fund, doctoral research
2019–2021	St. Matthias Fund, doctoral research
2016	Scholars’ Semester in Oxford, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford

Grant writing

Lilly Foundation Endowment Grant for Virtual Curacy, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale \$1 million (2025)

Coauthored grant application. PI: Andrew McGowan.

Lilly Foundation Assessment and Planning Grant for Virtual Curacy, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, \$50,000 (2025)

Coauthored grant application, produced qualitative data from listening sessions with over a dozen bishops in The Episcopal Church, developed Virtual Curacy curriculum. PI: Andrew McGowan.

ACADEMIC TALKS

- 2026 Directing Desire in the Pursuit of Perfection in Gregory of Nyssa's *De vita Moysis*, The North American Patristics Society (NAPS), Chicago, May 21-23.
- 2025 Chair, Cultivating a Feminist Preaching Imagination in Difficult Times, Ruthanna Hooke, Cynthia Kittredge, and Amy McLaughlin-Sheasby, Feminist Theology Network, Online, September 15.
- 2025 Sea Monsters in Soteriology: The Misconception of Gregory of Nyssa as a Ransom Theorist, The North American Patristics Society (NAPS), Chicago, May 22-24.
- 2025 Be Still & Know: Preventing Burnout & Rediscovering Joy in Ministry, Forma Conference Workshop, Online, January 27-30.
- 2024 Chair, Why Feminist Theology Needs Art, Natalie Carnes, Feminist Theology Network, Online, October 21.
- 2024 Chair, Let's Bury Atonement Theology for Good, Rita Nakashima Brock, Feminist Theology Network, Online, March 25.
- 2023 Chair, On Trans Identity and the Place of Transgender People in the Church, Sophie Grace Chappell, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, New Haven, November 10.
- 2022 Imagery for Soteriological Transformation in *De Anima et Resurrectione*, Gregory of Nyssa: 15th International Colloquium, Exeter/Online, September 6-9.
- 2022 The Question of the Greedy Fish in Gregory of Nyssa's *Oratio Catechetica*, Cambridge University Faculty of Divinity Religions of Late Antiquity Seminar, Cambridge, February 14.
- 2021 The Soteriological Image of Healing in Gregory of Nyssa's *Oratio Catechetica*, Systematic Theology Unit, American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.
- 2021 Looking for Sea Monsters: The Κῆτος, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC/Online, November 12.
- 2021 The Doctrine of the Atonement, Clare-ity Research Symposium, Clare College, Cambridge, October 14.

- 2021 The Κῆτος in the Imagination of the Early Greek Church,” Byzantine Society of North America conference: Aquatic Animals in the Global Middle Ages, Katowice, Poland/Online, September 27-28.
- 2021 Early Byzantine Portrayals of Crucifixion...or Not?, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC/Online, September 24.
- 2021 Must Reconciliation Be Violent? Feminist Critiques of Violent Atonement Theories and What is Next, Society for the Study of Theology conference: Reconciliation, Cambridge, England, September 13-15.
- 2021 Chair, Religious Dialogues II, Society for the Study of Theology conference: Reconciliation, Cambridge, England, September 13-15.
- 2019 Gregory of Nyssa’s Use of Metaphor to Elucidate the Concept of Spiritual Transformation, Clare-ity Research Symposium, Clare College, Cambridge, March 14.

Talks and Presentations for Popular Audiences

- 2025 “What is the Creed? PART 01 with Hannah Black, PhD,” guest on And Also With You podcast, November 3
- 2025 “Wonder and Salvation with Hannah Black,” guest on The Leader’s Way podcast, ep #56, June 2
- 2023–2025 The Leader’s Way: Yale’s podcast on spirituality, leadership, and theology, podcast host and producer, episodes 7–55
- 2024 “What is Hope?,” guest on And Also With You podcast, April 1
- 2022 The Book of Job, director of live performance, Clare College Chapel, Marcy 19
- 2021 “Though Once We Walked in Darkness,” Advent carol text for Clare College Choir, arrangement by Robert Jones debuted November 28

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Virginia Theological Seminary, Visiting Professor of History and Theology

The Historical Witness of the Church, w/ Katherine Sonderegger (fall 2025, scheduled for fall 2026)
 Anglican Thought (scheduled for fall 2026)
 The Doctrine of Salvation (spring 2026)
 The History of The Episcopal Church (fall 2025)

Independent studies:

Patristics (scheduled for fall 2026)

The Theology of Thomas Aquinas (spring 2026)

Thesis advisor:

Stories of Women: Exploring the Meaning and Significance of Christ's Inclusion of Women in His Earthly Ministry (2026–2027, w/ Melody Knowles)

The General Theological Seminary, Instructor of Record

Feminist Theologies (scheduled for spring 2027)

Yale University, Instructor of Record

The Anglican Way I, w/ Justin Crisp (spring 2025)

Ideas of Salvation in Early Christianity, w/ Teresa Morgan (fall 2024)

Yale University, Teaching Fellow

Systematic Theology, w/ Willie Jennings (spring 2024)

Westminster College Cambridge, Lecturer

Beginning Biblical Greek (summer 2021)

University of Cambridge, Supervisor (Teaching Fellow)

Theology and Literature (spring 2021)

Additional teaching experience:

English Literature and Composition, Capistrano Valley Christian High School (2017-2018)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Academic Administrative Leadership

Assistant Director, Leadership and Communications, Berkeley Divinity School, the Episcopal Seminary at Yale (2023-2025)

Program Coordinator, Principal Gifts, Alumni Affairs and Development, Yale University (2022-2023)

Ecclesial Leadership

Aspirant in The Episcopal Church Diocese of Virginia

Parish Internship, St. Paul's Alexandria (summer 2025)

Peer Review

Editor, Noesis graduate divinity journal, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, 2021–2022

To Field

Leadership team, Theologia, 2024–present

Leadership collective, Feminist Theology Network, 2023–present

Participant, Ecumenical dialogues in preparation for Lambeth Conference, Westminster Abbey, 2020

To University/Seminary

Seasonal Worship Planning Team Leader, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2026–2027

Faculty Advisor for MA students, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2026–2027

Committee Member, Center for Anglican Communion Studies, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2025–2026, 2026–2027

Committee Member, Portfolio Committee, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2026–2027

Committee Member, Lecture and Visiting Professor Committee, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2026–2027

Faculty Advisor, Anglican Fellowship Club, Yale Divinity School, 2023–2025

Undergraduate admissions interviewer, Clare College, University of Cambridge, 2020–2023

Chapel Warden, Clare College Chapel, University of Cambridge, 2018–2020

Chapel Representative, Clare College Masters' Common Room, University of Cambridge, 2019–2020

First-Year Officer, Clare College Masters' Common Room, University of Cambridge, 2018–2019

LANGUAGES

Koine Greek: Advanced reading and writing

French: intermediate reading and writing, beginner speaking

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR), 2019–present

The North American Patristics Society (NAPS), 2019–2022, 2024–present

Society for the Study of Theology (SST), 2021–present

Feminist Theology Network, 2023–present

Historical Society of The Episcopal Church, 2025–present

International Catacomb Society, 2024–present