

## PRACTICES OF FAITH IN TIMES OF NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CRISES

Gender Unit of the Beyers Naudé Centre, Faculty of Theology  
Stellenbosch University  
15–17 March 2021

The world is in the wake of a global health crisis at the time that we prepare this conference call. This crisis came whilst there were already many other global and national crises facing us, including poverty, inequality and corruption, immigration and xenophobia, gender-based violence, homophobia and more. This is, however, not the first time humanity had to deal with crises. On the contrary, through the ages nations and individuals responded in various ways to challenging times. Part of the responses have always been ritual in nature, in other words symbolic actions and practices of faith as reaction to crises on a national and global scale.

In the light hereof, the Gender Unit of the Beyers Naudé Centre and Department of Practical Theology and Missiology of the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, is hosting a conference on 15-17 March, 2021 at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University. The aim of this conference is to explore these practices as responses to national and global crises with a special emphasis on ritual, speech and song. Differently phrased, this conference will explore how practices such as liturgy, preaching and church music have been, and continue to be, impacted in times of national and global crises. These ritual responses are to be found in the biblical witness, throughout the history of the church, and in the contemporary practices of faith communities.

We invite papers that reflect from a variety of disciplinary perspectives on the following faith practices (a division inspired by the sub-discipline of Liturgy, Homiletics and Hymnology in the field of Practical Theology, although these groups will of course overlap at times):

- Ritual, Liturgy and Worship
- Religious Speech, Homiletics and Preaching
- Music, Hymnology and Praise.

*saam vorentoe · masiye pbambili · forward together*

The conference invites both academics and practitioners to reflect on these practices. We intend to augment the academic papers with workshops in which performances will be the main focus. Our keynote speakers include:

Prof. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana

Dr. Rima Nasrallah, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Martin Tel, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, USA

Dr. Han Janse van Rensburg, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Prof. Julie Claassens, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Ian Nell, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

We also have as special guest on a panel with the South African writer, journalist, and film maker Mr. Dana Snyman.

If you want to join us for this conference and perhaps also do a paper, please submit a title and abstract (200 words max) to us by December 1st, 2020. There is limited amount of sessions available for paper presentation.

For further inquiries and abstract submissions, please email Prof Cas Wepener [cwepener@sun.ac.za] or Rev Marileen Steyn [marileen.steyn@gmail.com], and for registration, please email Mrs Marita Snyman [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za].

Looking forward to hosting you in Stellenbosch in 2021!

Cas Wepener & Marileen Steyn