

"GOD FITS US LIKE A GARMENT"

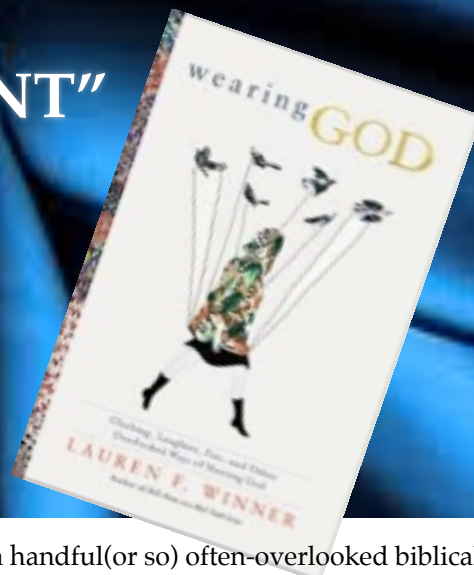
SHRINE MONT WOMEN'S RETREAT

MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2019

Early Bird Rate, Double: \$305, Single \$355

After May 1st, Double \$355, Single \$405

Rate includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, and instruction



Cardigan Sweaters, Magnolia Trees, and Brioche: Overlooked Biblical Metaphors for God

"Stale." That's how my friend Sheila recently described her experience of church and God. When I probed deeper, I discovered that the root of that "staleness" lay in the images of God Sheila held. "I go to a church called Good Shepherd," said she. "I am not getting anywhere trying to pray to a shepherd. I'm not sure I've ever seen a shepherd. She's also pretty sure she's never seen a king or a mother hen.

**Shepherd. Father. Judge. Friend.
Light of the world. Alpha and omega.
King. Mother hen tending her brood.**

Those are some of the ways in which we in the church often image God. But the Bible offers countless other images as well, images the church has largely overlooked for at least a century. **Vine. Clothing. Cheesemaker. Bee-keeper. Housekeeper. Gravedigger.**



We will explore a handful (or so) often-overlooked biblical images for God. Drawing on contemporary movies, anthropologists' musings, and the writings of medieval mystics, we will ask what it might mean to take seriously the idea that God is, say, clothing. How might we preach a sermon about one of the many biblical passages that invites us to think of God as clothing? What kinds of prayer possibilities open up when we think of God as clothing—as a cardigan sweater, a bespoke suit?

Lauren F. Winner writes and lectures widely on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. Her books include *Girl Meets God*, *Mudhouse Sabbath*, a study of household religious practice in 18th-century Virginia, *A Cheerful and Comfortable Faith*, *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*, and, most recently, a book on overlooked biblical tropes for God, *Wearing God*. She is completing a book called *Characteristic Damage*, which examines the effects of sin and damage on Christian practice. Dr. Winner, an Episcopal priest, is vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Louisburg, N.C.

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