

Newsletter, October 2021

Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship





Gary Deddo President

Dear members of the T. F. Torrance Theological Fellowship,

Please join us for this year's annual keynote by Stephen Holmes. Myk Habets will moderate discussion. Join us live on Zoom at 1pm, November 6, or watch the recording at a later date as part of the American Association of Religion program. A brief business meeting for members will precede the keynote on November 6 at noon. See information below. We hope to see you there!

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Gary W. Deddo President, Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

Stephen R. Holmes, Principal of St Mary's College, Head of School of

Divinity, University of St Andrews, will deliver our annual lecture: "Simplicity in Fourth-century Nicene Theology and T. F. Torrance's *Homoousion*"

Abstract: In T.F. Torrance's trinitarian theology, the *homoousion* plays the role that the doctrine of divine simplicity played for the pro-Nicene theologians in the fourth century. This lecture will demonstrate that point, and then consider the historical and systematic implications of it. It is arguable that Torrance offers us a way to preserve trinitarian orthodoxy without the need to invoke the troublesome concept of simplicity, which would be a significant gain; it is also arguable that even in Torrance's deployment, the *homoousion* is too capacious of doctrines the Fathers would have regarded as tritheistic.

Stephen R. Holmes is an ordained Baptist minister who has taught theology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, for the past sixteen years. He is presently Head of the School of Divinity there, and Principal of St Mary's, the ancient theological college of the University. His research has focused on the doctrine of God, on soteriology, and on early modern Puritan and Baptist traditions. His publications include *The Quest for the Trinity: Perspectives from the Bible, History, and Modernity* (IVP, 2012).

Saturday, November 6 — join us for the live recording. Access the Zoom info by logging into the Fellowship website (as a member or with a guest pass):

- Business meeting at noon Central Daylight Time US (6pm UK)
- Lecture at 1pm Central Daylight Time US (7pm UK). After the lecture there will be a time for Q&A moderated by Myk Habets.

Friday, November 19 — <u>AAR program</u>: Friday, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM (Virtual). Replay as part of the AAR program for Related Scholarly Organizations. Access from the American Academy of Religion website or from the Fellowship website (a link to the recording will be added there shortly after November 6).

Notice: An earlier 2021 TFT Fellowship Business Meeting was held Friday afternoon, July 30, 4:00-4:45 pm. Membership voted on a proposed amendment to the T.F. Torrance Fellowship Bylaws, which passed. Additional matters will be taken up at the Business Meeting on Nov 6.

Annual Keynote page on the Fellowship website

Request a Guest Pass or ask a question



2021 Workshop-Retreat

Videos available

- Opening address by Andrew Purves: "COVID 19 and The Apocalypse Today: A Thought Experiment in Pastoral Theology."
- Presentations by Jenny Richards, Stavan John, Stephen Lorance, Margaret Stein, Jock Stein, and Marty Folsom, with commentary by Jerome van Kuiken and Myk Habets.
- Special roundtable discussion: Paul Molnar, Freedom, Necessity, and the Knowledge of God in Conversation with Karl Barth and Thomas F. Torrance (London: T&T Clark, 2022) Paul Molnar, George Hunsinger, Myk Habets.
- *Special roundtable discussion*: Julie Canlis, Christy Thornton, Kate Tyler, Jenny Richards.
- *Panel discussion:* Trends in Torrance Studies Myk Habets, Jerome van Kuiken, Kerry Magruder.

Firbush Virtual Retreat

Videos available





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T. F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

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