



## Newsletter, May 2023

Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship



Myk Habets President

Just in time for Pentecost, a new issue of *Participatio* on "[The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience](#)" is now available! Nine contributors, both male and female, reflect on such topics as the Holy Spirit in Christ's own life, the Charismatic Movement, sanctification, spiritual formation, and corporate worship, all in conversation with the theology of T. F. and J. B. Torrance.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are finalising plans for the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship [Annual Meeting](#) to be held as part of the AAR in San Antonio, Texas, November 17, 2023. Our meeting of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship this year will be held jointly with the Karl Barth Society of North America from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in San Antonio on November 17, 2023, and will feature a Panel Discussion of Paul D. Molnar's recent book, [Freedom, Necessity, and the Knowledge of God: In Conversation with Karl Barth and Thomas F. Torrance](#) (London: T&T Clark Bloomsbury, 2022). The Panelists will be Jeremy Begbie, Duke Divinity School, Duke University, Kimlyn J. Bender, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Elmer M. Colyer, Dubuque Theological Seminary, and Darren Sarisky, Australian Catholic University, Victoria, Australia. Paul D. Molnar, St. John's University, New York will respond. Myk Habets, Laidlaw College, Auckland, NZ will preside. It will be good to meet people again, in person (God willing), after several years of COVID interrupted plans. Let us pray this will be a safe and stimulating time for all who attend. Please stay tuned for an update with the venue and room number confirmed.

On the occasion of the coronation of King Charles III I thought it apropos to include a short citation from a sermon Thomas F. Torrance gave in December 1940 entitled *Isaiah 52:7 Thy God is King!*

---

"Think of that old world nineteen hundred years ago before the angels sang at Bethlehem—the proud imperial world was beginning to go rotten at the core, festering with sin, with all its gods dead, and all its wisdom bankrupt, and all its morals in chaos. And think of Israel with the dark shadow of Herod darkening the land, and men and women stumbling in the gloom of God-forsakenness. Desperate

voices were crying out in the darkness, "Watchman, what of the night?" and weary eyes were straining vainly through the gloom. There is a marvellous passage at the opening of the Agamemnon of Aeschylus. A solitary watchman crouches on the palace-roof at midnight. Every night, for weary months, he has been stationed there:

*"I have conned the nightly concourse of the stars  
That shine majestic in yon clear heaven,"*

and waiting for the gleam of the bonfire that shall announce the fall of Troy and the ending of the Trojan war. Suddenly through the darkness, the flame of the beacon leaps up the sky; and the watchman on the battlements, his long vigil over and the tension snapped, springs to his feet and cries aloud:

*"All hail! thou light in darkness,  
Harbinger of day!"*

So it was when "the fullness of the time was come, and God sent forth His Son." Through the thick darkness of a pagan world's confusion and corruption and despair, the divine beacon of hope appeared—a voice cried "Immanuel" and the world looked up and saw far down the eastern horizon the flush of dawn. And men knew that the dark age was over, and that ancient night was vanquished; and in the morning they saw the glory of the Lord."

---

With God's richest blessings,

Dr Myk Habets

President, Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

[Donate](#)

[Participatio](#)

[Reading Group](#)

## Participatio

Journal of the T. F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

**Volume 10 (2022):  
The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience**



PHOTOGRAPH: "PENTECOST." ENGRAVING BY JUSTUS SADELER, 1578 - C. 1620.  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Creative Commons 0, via Wikimedia Commons.

[Participatio Volume 10: \(2022\)](#)

### "The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience"

New issue now available!

Editor: Todd Speidell

Volume editor Jerome Van Kuyken

Other contributors include Chris Kettler, Myk Habets, Marty Folsom, Don Payne, Kristen Deede Johnson and Anna Erickson, Geordie Ziegler, and Jeannine Michele Graham.

[Download PDF](#)

*Participatio* is an annual peer-reviewed online journal of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship, edited by Todd Speidell.

[Browse all 14 issues](#)

[Coming soon!](#)

Supplemental Volume.

Volume editor: Todd Speidell.

"Papers from the Pandemic."

Volume editors: Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkale.

[Call for Papers](#)

"T. F. Torrance's Theological Influences."

Volume editors: Todd Speidell and Jason Radcliff.

"T. F. Torrance and the Natural Sciences in Historical Context" and

"T. F. Torrance and the Natural Sciences in Ongoing Dialogue"

Volume editors: Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkale. [More](#).

Volunteers welcome!

Opportunities for professional service include:

- *Participatio*: Production assistance, copy editing.
- Drupal website development
- Studies Bibliographer for current Torrance literature
- Student/Faculty liaison
- Oral history project

[Learn more](#)... If interested, contact Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkale, [webmasters](#).

Volunteer opportunities

Questions? Contact us

T. F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

You received this email as a friend or member of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship. Join the Fellowship at [tftorrance.org](http://tftorrance.org).

Receive future Fellowship or Fimbush newsletters by contacting the [webmasters](#). We maintain separate newsletters for the Fellowship and for Fimbush Retreats; let us know if you want to be added to the other list. Click the link below if you do not wish to receive *any* further communications from us.

Received duplicates? [Email us](#) the address you'd like to keep, and we'll unsubscribe the others.

[Unsubscribe](#)

