



Newsletter, October 2023

Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship



Myk Habets President

The Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship [Annual Meeting](#) soon will be held as part of the AAR in San Antonio, Texas, November 17, 2023. Our meeting this year will be held jointly with the Karl Barth Society of North America from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Grand Hyatt-Bonham C (3rd Floor) meeting room.

The program 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
- Myk Habets, Laidlaw College, New Zealand
- 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.

I conclude with a short prayer of Thomas F. Torrance's which he prayed for his University, and we apply to this Fellowship:

"Almighty God, Creator of all things visible and invisible, you have planted man in the midst of the universe to inquire into the mysteries of its being, to enjoy the beauty of its structures, and to be the agent of its disclosure. Continue to send upon us in this University the light that comes from above that in all the sciences and arts we pursue together, wonder and research, humility and learning, joy and discovery, in the knowledge of things temporal may lead us to desire the truth that is eternal, and to adore the perfection which You Yourself are. Through Jesus Christ our Lord."

With God's richest blessings,

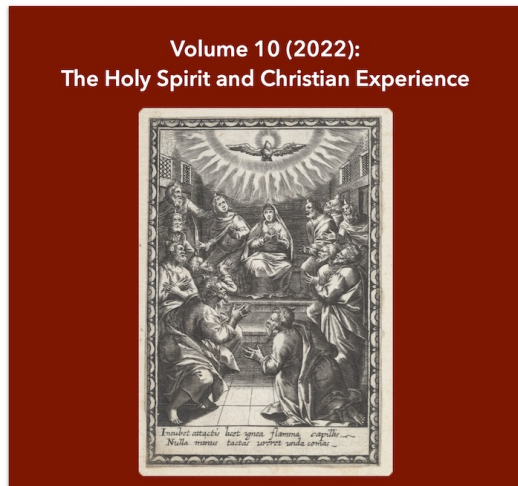
[Molnar book info](#)

[Meeting info](#)

tftorrance.org

Participatio

Journal of the T. F. Torrance Theological Fellowship



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

Latest issue

"The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience"

Editor: Todd Speidell

Volume editor: Jerome Van Kuiken

Contributors include Chris Kettler, Myk Habets, Marty Folsom, Don Payne, Kristen Deede Johnson, Anna Erickson, Geordie Ziegler, Jerome Van Kuiken, and Jeannine Michele Graham.

Updated with a response by Simeon Zahl.

[Download PDF](#)

[Coming in December for 2023](#)

"The Priority of Grace in the Theology of T. F. Torrance"

Volume editor: Todd Speidell.

Tentative outline:

I. Grace and Nature in T. F. Torrance

- Paul Molnar, "Conflicting Visions of Grace and Nature: Appraising the Views of Thomas F. Torrance and Karl Rahner."
- Jeremy S. Begbie, "Incarnation, Creation, and New Creation: T. F. Torrance and a Theological Re-visioning of the Arts." Annual Meeting Keynote 2018.
- Todd H. Speidell, "Interview with Paul Molnar."

II. Theology and Ethics in T. F. Torrance

- Paul Molnar, "Torrance, Justification by Grace Alone, and 'Liberation Theology.'"
- Todd H. Speidell, "T. F. Torrance's Soteriological Suspension of the Ethical." Annual Meeting Keynote 2020.
- Christian D. Kettler, "Response to Speidell."

III. Book Reviews

- Ivor J. Davidson, "Review of Paul D. Molnar, *Freedom, Necessity, and the Knowledge of God in Conversation with Karl Barth and Thomas F. Torrance* (T&T Clark, 2022)."
- E. Jerome van Kuiken, "Up, Up and Away: Christian Kettler's Corpus and the Rise of

'Affective Barthianism': A Review Essay."

• Christian D. Kettler, Review of Todd Speidell, Greg Marcar, and Andrew Torrance, *Søren Kierkegaard: Theologian of the Gospel* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2021).

IV. Additional keynotes

- Stephen R. Holmes, "Simplicity in Fourth-century Nicene Theology and T. F. Torrance's *Homoousion*." Annual Meeting Keynote 2021.
- Thomas H. McCall, "God stakes his own being: Torrance and McCormack on God and evil after Barth." Annual Meeting Keynote 2022.

On Deck

Forthcoming: "Practical Theology"

The work of Thomas F. Torrance is often characterised as dense, profound, daunting, and impenetrable. More so than its style, the content is often said to be intensely academic and concerned with what many describe as an esoteric form of theology. Those who have been readers of Torrance's work for a while have the privilege of indwelling his work, both the content and the desired goal of his theology, and we see things very differently. Torrance's dogmatic theology is neither impractical nor devoid of ethics. Quite to the contrary, across Torrance's vast literary outpost, one can find specific discussions on a wide range of practical, ethical, and pastoral issues, and in many more places, one finds a theological foundation upon which such practical issues can be built. This volume of Participatio offers perspectives into a range of practical and pastoral issues that benefit from the close reading of Torrance's theological offerings.

Forthcoming:

"Papers from the Pandemic"

During the pandemic and its aftermath, the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship responded to the needs of students and scholars by sponsoring several online events: two workshops in 2020 and 2021 featuring works in progress or at an early stage of research, and two virtual Furbush retreats in 2021 and 2022. This issue of Participatio includes a number of contributions to those events.

Call for papers:

"T. F. Torrance and the Natural Sciences" (2 issues)

Perhaps uniquely among leading theologians of the 20th century, T. F. Torrance engaged the natural sciences extensively on several fronts including the history, philosophy, and theology of science. Despite a resurgence over the last twenty years of scholarship on Torrance from the standpoint of theology, his engagement with the natural sciences has thus far received less attention than it deserves. Contributions are welcome which explore Torrance and the dialogue between theology and the natural sciences in two complementary tracks: "T. F. Torrance and the Natural Sciences in Historical Context," consisting of critical interpretation of Torrance in historical context; and "T. F. Torrance and the Natural Sciences in Ongoing Dialogue," comprising critical appreciation of Torrance for ongoing work in related fields.

Call for papers:

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

Monitor the [forthcoming issues / call for papers](#) page on the *Participatio* website.

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

[Browse all 15 issues](#)

Volunteers needed!

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

[Contact Kerry Magruder and Brent Purkaple.](#)

Volunteer opportunities

Contact us



Growing up into Christ: Paul's preaching and vision for the church in Ephesus

Firbush Retreat

November 8-10, 2023

Organized by Robert Walker, held at the Firbush Study Centre, near Killin, on Loch Tay, in the Highlands of Scotland.

Speakers: Robert Walker; Bruce Ritchie; Thomas Noble; Kerry Magruder; Jennifer Floether; Jock Stein & Margaret Stein.

[Registration and program details.](#)

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 or sign up as a friend by contacting the [webmasters](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)

