



Preaching with Compassion in lament & hope

October 5-8, 2026 · Catbird Hotel · Denver, Colorado

Is this for me?

Are you preaching in a community shaped by trauma—wondering how to name what is true while still offering hope? Are you carrying your own experiences into the pulpit, or seeking ways to create worship spaces where all feel safe and seen?

We invite you to Preaching with Compassion — in Lament and Hope, a gathering designed to meet you where you are.

- *Engage what you need* — Choose from workshop pathways including embodied practices, trauma-aware resources for preaching and worship, and conversations with keynote leaders
- *Listen across the spectrum of lament and hope* — Hear preaching that names truth, honors pain, and still makes room for hope
- *Gather and be held* — With space for reflection, connection, and rest at the Catbird Hotel in downtown Denver

Note: The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation's **2026 Bountiful Preaching Cohorts will attend this event as part of their award.**

Where is Preaching with Compassion?

Catbird Hotel is located in downtown Denver, CO, offering a vibrant and welcoming space for rest, connection, and renewal. Thoughtfully designed with both comfort and creativity in mind, the hotel features inviting communal spaces, cozy apartment-style rooms, and easy access to Denver's arts, dining, and outdoor scenes.

Located just 25 minutes from Denver International Airport, the Catbird Hotel is easily accessible by train, bus, or taxi. Onsite parking is available for \$40 per night, with lower-cost garages within walking distance and free street parking available around the hotel.

What is offered?



Worship and Preaching that holds lament and nurtures hope

Keynote and Workshops that meet you where you are—offering resources, reflection, and embodied practices

Private Sound Bath Tuesday night

Most Meals — All meals except Tuesday dinners are included

Restorative Time — Participants may enjoy personal time exploring the hotel and Denver, with optional morning yoga and an evening sound bath.

Retreat Leaders

Lis Valle-Ruiz
Preacher & Workshop Leader

Dr. Lis Valle-Ruiz is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, where she also directs Community Worship Life. A self-described “playful scholar-activist” and “indecent theologian,” her work explores preaching as an embodied practice, drawing on performance theory, trauma studies, and decolonial and queer perspectives in service of justice, joy, and community flourishing.



William Lamar – Preacher & Keynote

Rev. William H. Lamar IV is pastor of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC, where he has served since 2014, leading a historic congregation in ministries of justice, healing, and hope. A nationally recognized preacher and community organizer, his work engages trauma, faith, and public witness. Lamar is also a doctoral candidate in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric.



Carrie Doehring – Keynote & Workshop Leader

Rev. Dr. Carrie Doehring is Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care at Iliff School of Theology and a retired psychologist and PC(USA) minister. Her work explores how people engage lament amid trauma, moral injury, and spiritual struggle. A leading voice in pastoral care, she equips leaders to tend suffering, share lament in trusted community, and cultivate practices of care for themselves and others.



How much does it cost?

It is Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation's mission to inspire, equip, and connect congregational leaders in a thirteen state area in Middle America. Reduced rates are provided to worship leaders from OPSF's service area.

Event registration includes *daily worship, keynote and workshops* led by gifted theologians and worship leaders, *most meals* (Monday dinner - Thursday breakfast, excluding Tuesday dinner)

Lodging and parking are not included* in the registration rate.

- Are you from OPSF's thirteen-state service area? The cost is \$150** (see micro-church rate under scholarships)
- Are you from outside OPSF's thirteen-state service area? The cost is \$210**

**Registration Cost Increases by \$35 on May 15.

***Lodging is NOT reserved during registration—except for PLR members and 2026 Bountiful Preaching cohorts.**

All other participants will receive a follow-up email with a special booking code for a \$199/night rate at the Catbird Hotel.

Need a roommate? Indicate on your registration form, and we will do our best to match you.

What does the schedule look like?

The sample schedule below will give you an idea of what to expect. The schedule may change slightly.

Monday, October 5

2:30-4:00 PM	PLR Gathering
4-5:30 PM	Registration
6 PM	Dinner (provided)
7-7:15 PM	Welcome & Introductions
7:15-8:15 PM	Opening Worship
8:15 PM	Late Registration

Tuesday-Wednesday, October 6-7 — Typical Flow

7-8 AM	Yoga
8-8:45 AM	Breakfast (provided)
8:45-9 AM	Morning Prayer
9-10 AM	Keynote
10-10:15 AM	Break
10:15-10:45 AM	Keynote Q&A
11:00-12:30 PM	Workshops
12:30 PM	Box Lunch Pickup (provided)
1-2:30 PM	Workshops
2:30-2:45 PM	Break
2:45-3:45 PM	Worship (Tues)/Affinity Groups (Wed)
6-7PM	Dinner (Tues. on your own/Wed. provided)
7-8 PM	Worship (Wed. only)
8 PM	Sound Bath (Tues. only)

Thursday, October 8

8-9 AM	Continental Breakfast to go (provided)
9-9:30 AM	Charge & Blessing
9:30 AM	Head for Home

Questions?

Contact Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation's Director of Education, Rev. Dr. April Davis Campbell, at education@opsf-omaha.org.

Joe Davis – Embodied Artist-Theologian

Joe Davis is an award-winning spoken word artist and bestselling author who uses poetry to power possibility. He is founder of Finding Your Freedom Practice, an artist collective teaching holistic wellness through the arts. Based in Minneapolis, he tours globally, partnering with communities to inspire collective liberation and human flourishing.



Wil Smith – Music Leader

Wil Smith is a church musician, organist, and composer passionate about helping the body of Christ find their voice in congregational song. He serves as organist and associate director of music at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver and performs regularly with the Colorado Symphony. He is especially drawn to new hymnody, including collaborations with David LaMotte.



Scholarships

Scholarships may be available to defray the cost of lodging, travel, or both. Participants may receive up to the cost of one bed in a shared double-occupancy room, and/or \$300 travel reimbursement.

Scholarship eligibility:

- Reside or serve a congregation within the OPSF service region
- Have not received a scholarship for an OPSF event in the past three years

Those requesting scholarship assistance are encouraged to *apply*, at tinyurl.com/OPSFeventscholarships prior to registering for Preaching with Compassion.

Micro-church Pastoral Leaders (in OPSF Region, serving churches <25 members) pay a reduced registration fee of \$50 and will receive reimbursement of \$350 towards their room rate.



How do I register?

Register at

<https://preachingwithcompassion.rsvpify.com>



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