

School for Ministry Seminars

Seminars may be offered at times other than Saturday. Seminars differ in the number of sessions required.

ESM - 1 Episcopal Servant Ministries

Open to all persons sending a call to something more or different in ministry. Required (1) of all persons beginning formal discernment for holy orders and (2) of all persons pursuing ordination. This 3-session seminar is a pre-requisite for beginning study in the School for Ministry and for embarking on the discernment journey that may lead to ordained ministry. The first session explores the mission of the Church, the tools by which the Church advances God's mission, and the four orders of ministry as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The second session considers the roles of each of the orders of ministry, and the spiritual gifts that align with those roles. Between the second and third sessions, seminar participants take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment Survey and receive feedback on the same. In the final session, seminar participants explore how their gifts may align with the needs and mission of the Church and the pathways open to them to support their development as servant ministers within any of the four orders. Each seminar session is 2 ½ hours, and the seminar is offered at least 6 times a year. The maximum number of participants is 12.

ESM - 2 Using the Book of Common Prayer and Other Tools of Episcopal Worship

Intended for person seeking licensing as Lay Worship Leader. This seminar introduces the history of the BCP and explores the richness of all that is contained therein, always from a hands-on perspective, and examines the use of other prayer books within the Anglican Communion. Students will learn to read the rubrics, to work with the liturgical calendar and the lectionaries, and will develop some familiarity with the concerns that underlie current movements toward liturgical revisions. Guidance on praying the psalms is also considered.

ESM - 4 Transformational Preaching

This course has pre-requisites. This course in Transformational Preaching will begin by offering the participant an opportunity to consider her/his preaching hermeneutic, (the lens through which they give meaning to scripture) through the self-examination of one's individual position in family, community, workplace, church, and society. It will discuss how one's hermeneutic effects the way in which we preach and the messages we seek to deliver. It will explore the principles of Prophetic Preaching for social justice.

ESM - 5 Leading Online Worship

Required of every student in the School for Ministry and for those seeking licensing as a Lay Worship Leader. Every student in the School for Ministry must prepare and lead online worship no less than twice each month. This seminar prepares students to select the psalms, readings, and prayer options for the liturgical day or commemorative feast. The students are also expected to lead (not to preach) a conversation about scripture within each online worship service. Students are introduced in this seminar to the preparation of a service bulletin and to the management of the technology needed for each service. The seminar explores practical questions regarding worship planning and invites a deep appreciation of the history, theology, and ceremonial practices of the liturgical rites of the Church; the aesthetic and nonverbal elements of worship; and the role of liturgical music in the Anglican tradition.

ESM - 6 Exploring and Self-Assessing Against the AED Diaconal Competencies

Open to those journeying toward diaconal ministry. The Diaconal Competencies matter, regardless of whether a student is journeying toward the priesthood or the vocational diaconate. This 2session seminar explores the diaconal competencies established by AED and assists students in their self-assessments against these competencies.

ESM - 7 Internship Seminar

Open to students approaching parish internships and required of persons in parish internships. During parish internships, students grow in understanding and appreciation for the ministry of the diaconate and of the priesthood. To facilitate that growth, students must participate in a seminar that examines their experiences in light of key facets of ordained ministry, including the relationship between the bishop, priests, and deacons; service to the world and to the church; roles in liturgy, sacramental rites, and pastoral services; vestments and other practical questions; and deacons working in congregations facing transition. These seminar sessions are guided by local clergy; students have opportunities through this seminar to expand or to begin to build enduring collegial relationships.

ESM - 8 Engaging the World & Inviting the Church to Walk with Those In Need

Open to those in or approaching parish internships and required of all moving toward the diaconate. If deacons are to “interpret for the church the needs, hopes, and concerns of the world,” they need tools that help them to engage effectively with communities in need outside of the church. That is the work of this seminar. Students in parish internships will consider lessons learned from diverse community organizing efforts and how those lessons apply to engagement as the followers of Jesus with the world outside the church. Students will apply

these lessons in their parish internships and will gather to share and reflect on their experiences.

ESM - 9 / A - 21 Ministry and the Canons of the Church

Open to all and required of those pursuing holy orders. This seminar will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the interface of those canons with the canons of the Diocese of New Jersey.

School for Ministry Courses

Courses require eight 2 ½-hour sessions (20 hours of in-class time)

*Courses suggested for Anglican Studies students are noted as **A-#**.*

The Hebrew and Christian Scriptures S - 1 Our Sacred Texts

This course prepares students to (1) appreciate, discuss, and work with in ministry the full sweep of scripture; (2) read scripture as a text rich in diversity; (3) begin to find their own voices as interpreters of texts that arose from a complex interplay of peoples and cultures. Students will consider or review (depending on their prior study and experience) the development of the Hebrew and Christian canons, including differences between the two, and the genres of literature found in the canons. This course should develop in students a true appreciation for the plurality of voices in contemporary biblical study and interpretation.

S - 2 The Pentateuch

This course will more deeply explore the 'Five Books of Moses'; i.e., the five books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, and their relationship to the world of Jesus and his first century followers. Students will explore in greater depth the themes of creation, sin and evil, covenant, election, law, salvation, hope, and God's eternal kingdom as these are made visible through the texts and their historical, social, and literary contexts. Students will engage with the Pentateuch to deepen skill in critical biblical reading and interpretation, and will relate their critical interpretations to contemporary issues and contexts.

S - 3 The Older Testament, Covenants, and the Divine-Human Relationship

This course will explore God's relationship with the created world and the covenants between God and God's people, as these are set forth in the Hebrew scriptures (primarily, the Pentateuch, but with some attention to the other narrative and prophetic books as well).

Students will explore covenant in relation to the themes of creation, sin and evil, election, law, salvation, hope, and God's eternal kingdom, as these are made visible through the texts and their historical, social, and literary contexts. Students will deepen skill in critical biblical reading and interpretation.

S - 4 Prophetic Voices

This course will enhance the student's skills as an interpreter of the prophetic voices in scripture. This course will examine the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel, with particular attention to the writings about and the books attributed to named 'prophets' in the Hebrew Bible. Questions to be investigated include the following: What is a prophet? What sorts of concerns tend to generate oracles by prophets and diviners? Are there discernible social roles for the prophet in the society of ancient Israel? What distinguishes so-called prophetic literature from other genres of composition contained in the Bible or used in the ancient Near East? How do oral and written modes of composition interplay in the prophetic corpus? Who 'authored' the books attributed to prophets in the Hebrew Bible, and how did they go about this task? Students will be introduced to the major theological themes in the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible and will consider the role of these in the life of Jesus and his first century followers.

S - 5 The Wisdom Literature

This course will enhance the student's skills as an interpreter of the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible. The course will examine the wisdom books of the Hebrew Bible, with particular emphasis on the Psalms, but also including Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. Students will be introduced to the major theological themes in the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible and will consider the role of these in the life of Jesus and his first century followers, as well as the use of these writings in the life of the church today.

S - 6 Matthew, Mark and Luke

This course introduces the student to academic study of the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the Synoptic Gospels). Students will address introductory issues such as authorship, date, literary genre, structure and historicity, as well as the Synoptic problem; will study the distinctive character of each author, work and intended audience; and will explore key events the life of Jesus as described by the witness of the Synoptics. This course should provide the students with a solid understanding of the theological and ecclesial significance of the synoptics, particularly for preaching, and its understandings of mission and making disciples.

S - 7 John

From its earlier reception, the Gospel of John has been considered... well... different. It appears only sporadically throughout the Book of Common Prayer's Lectionary. For many, this "spiritual gospel" is the theologically high-flying corrective to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). For that reason, however, biblical scholars once considered the Fourth Gospel next to worthless for understanding the historical Jesus of Nazareth. Yet this gospel has much to teach us about the historical and theological significance of the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

This course aims to orient the student to both historical-critical and theological issues of John's Gospel and its formation. We will also seek to understand the literary and rhetorical features of the finalized text. Most importantly, we will carry on sustained conversations on integrating the gospel's lessons and challenges into our lives, ministries, and preaching, and into the work of becoming disciples and helping to form other disciples.

S - 8 / A - 1 Acts of the Apostles, Church and Mission

This course shares the perspective of Justo Gonzalez that "the book of Acts is a call to be open to the action of the Spirit, not only leading [Christians] to confront the values & practices in society that may need to be subverted, but perhaps even leading them to subvert or question values and practices within the church itself." Acts, written from the perspective of the late first century, should be read as addressing not only the social and theological problems of the first century, but also the social and theological problems of our time. This course will invite you to learn to read scripture from the perspective of those without power in an imperial society. From that position, we will hear the Word as God as it confronts the values and practices of society, and we will also hear the Word as it confronts the values and practices practice of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

S - 9 Paul, Apostle and Theologian

This course will invite students to see Paul as a person and as an apostle. To accomplish this, students will be introduced to the first century Jewish world and the intersections between that world and the multifaceted Greco-Roman world that surrounded Paul's ministry and writings. Students will consider Saul's understanding of the goodness of the original creation, God's intention to renew that creation, and the ways those understandings fueled Saul's anti-Christian zeal. Students will then examine Paul's encounter on the road to Damascus, and his realization that in Jesus, God had fulfilled that intention to renew creation and had launched a new heaven-and-earth movement. That foundation will prepare students to

consider Paul's missional work and the development of his theological understanding, as set forth in his writings, and to consider Paul's relevance in a post-Christendom world.

S - 10 Daniel, Revelation, and Biblical Eschatology

This course will allow the student to consider Christian eschatology through the eyes of second-generation Christians. Beginning with the study of the book of Daniel and moving into the book of Revelation, students will examine Christian hope. Students will be introduced to apocalyptic eschatology, with its imagery, its visions of destruction, and with the certainty that God has overcome evil. By studying the historical, social, political, and religious setting of the late first century, students will have the work to hear or read each text as it was intended to be heard or read throughout the ages. Ultimately, this course will explore these texts as addressing the goodness of creation and the restoration of that goodness through God's ultimate triumph.

Theology

T - 1/ A - 2 Classical Christian Doctrine and the Anglican Tradition

Students will be introduced to the tool of theological reflection, its use in the development of a consistent and unified statement of faith, and its importance in ministry. This is an introductory theology course. The students will then study the Nicene Creed as the most evolved statement of faith left by the early Christians. This course will introduce the major personalities and historical circumstances influencing the development of the Nicene Creed, and the Scriptural references supporting the Creed. Students will also examine the Catechism as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, and the evolution of the catechism, beginning with King Henry's Prymer of 1545 and Cranmer's Catechism of 1548.

T - 2/ A - 3 Ethics and Moral Theology

Through case studies, an examination of the nature of virtue, and consideration of broader moral issues, this course will help students develop an account of the Christian moral life and the skills for enabling moral discernment in the engagement of moral quandaries, as these are lived within the Anglican and broader Christian tradition. Students will become familiar with the work and impact of moral theologians within the Anglican tradition. Students will explore the Christian moral life and moral discernment as expressions of the character of Christian faith, and the positions of the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and some subgroupings within the Anglican Communion on issues confronting the world today. This

course should help students articulate an account of Christian faith and practice that informs ministry, formation, teaching, and preaching.

T - 3/ A - 4 Liturgical and Sacramental Theology

Christian sacramental life evolved from the interplay between the experiences of the early followers of Jesus and the Hebrew awareness of the tension between the transcendence of God and God's action made visible through the events of human history. This course will explore the debt Christian worshipers owe to the Jewish thought, which permitted ordinary objects to be vessels conveying God's love. From the scriptures, students will explore prophetic symbolism, scriptural references to visible manifestations of God's presence, and the use of sacred space and time, and institutional narratives. Students will explore the development of Christian sacramental systems and the theological arguments, especially in connection with movements of the English Reformation and the establishment of the Episcopal Church, as well as the impact of ecumenism on liturgical experience. The course will allow students to explore the theology which underpins the liturgical celebrations of Baptism and Eucharist two great sacraments given by Christ to Church, the manner in which that theology underpins our rites and sacramental practices as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and other tools of worship. Finally, students will consider the pastoral rites as these have evolved in the Episcopal Church under the guidance of the Spirit.

T - 4/ A - 5 Spirituality and Ascetical Theology and Anglican Spiritual Practices

This course concerns the spiritual life of the individual and the ordained person's responsibility to assist in the spiritual development of others. Students will be introduced to the literature of Christian spirituality and the spiritual traditions of Anglicanism that began with the early 6th century Celtic missions and will consider how these traditions have evolved over centuries. The course will include both academic and experiential elements which support the students' efforts toward faithful spiritual practices, and which position them to help others do the same.

History of the Christian Movement

H - 1 The First Fifteen Centuries of the Christian Movement

This course invites students to study the Christian Movement from the formative Apostolic and Patristic periods through the complexities and conflicts of the Medieval period. Students should develop familiarity with the early spread of Christianity and the conflicts and moments

that shaped our theology, worship, and Christian living; the factors that impact the formation of an imperial church; the resulting conflicts between Christians and other faith traditions (notably those of the Arabic-Islamic empire); the development of monasticism; and the conflict between the Latin West and the Greek East. Attention will be paid to the influence of these concerns on the eventual development of the Anglican communion.

H - 2 The European and English Reformations, and the Spread of the Christian Movement

This course will direct student attention to major transformation of the Christian Movement following the 15th century, including the reformations taking place both in Europe and in England. Students will become familiar with the concerns that moved each of the reformers. The course will explore the interplay between human culture and Christian faith, and the ways that intersection has shaped both the reform movement and the development of Anglican life, worship, and thought.

H - 3 / A - 6 From Post-Reformation Times to the Anglican Communion Today

This course will ground student understanding of the development of the Episcopal Church within the history of the United States, within spiritual movements of the 18th century (e.g., the Awakenings), and within the expansion of the Global Anglicanism. Students will develop familiarity not only with the history of the Episcopal Church, but also with the social, liturgical, and theological challenges and shifts that have taken place within the Church since its founding, the spread of the Anglican Communion throughout the world, and the contemporary situation of Global Anglicanism.

Worship and Sacramental Leadership

W - 1 / A - 7 The Book of Common Prayer and Other Tools of Episcopal Worship

This course requires students to (1) develop intimate familiarity and capacity to use in private and communal worship all the tools within our 1979 Book of Common Prayer; understand how this book developed from the earliest Anglican Prayer Books and how it has evolved to the present, including General Convention 80 A059 (2022) and the work of the Church that flows from that resolution; (2) appreciate how the Anglican Communion today balances uniformity in worship with respect for the multicultural nature of the Anglican Communion; (3) appreciate other tools available for worship, including the Book of Occasional Services, *Enriching Our worship*, the *Great Cloud of Witnesses*, etc. At the end of this course, students should be prepared to use all parts of the BCP, including the seasons of the liturgical year and

the liturgical calendar, the Daily offices, the Collects, the Pastoral Offices and the seasonal liturgical rites, as well as to appropriately incorporate into common worship the additional liturgical tools studied.

W - 2/ A - 8 Administering the Great Sacraments of the Gospel: Baptism and Eucharist

This course is a practicum for students preparing for holy orders. Students will study, practice, and reflect on the work of presiding over and assisting at the rites of the two great sacraments given by the Lord Jesus to the Church: Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist. This course seeks to develop students as knowledgeable, capable, spiritually formed liturgical leaders within the Anglican tradition, capable of making sound pastoral decisions to engage the communities they serve in liturgy, which is indeed “the work of the people.” Students will engage with each rite, its history and theology, the ceremonial practices of these rites, including the aesthetic and nonverbal elements of each and the role of liturgical music. Preparation of the community for each rite will also be considered.

W - 3/ A - 9 Leadership of Liturgical Rites at a Time of Death and Burial

The time of death and burial is a time of particular pastoral attention. Students will experience the process of preparation, performance and reflection on the liturgical rites appropriate to death and burial. The impact of sensitivities regarding the circumstances of death (older age, death of a child, sudden death, suicide death, death from addiction, homicide, etc.) will be considered. The course seeks to develop the students as knowledgeable, capable, spiritually formed liturgical leaders within the Anglican tradition, capable of making sound pastoral decisions to engage the communities they serve in liturgical rites provided at times filled with human emotion. Students will be required to write and present two sermons that demonstrate their understanding of such sensitivities.

W - 4/ A - 10 Administration of Other Sacramental Rites

This course is a practicum for students preparing for holy orders. Students will study, practice, and reflect on the work of presiding of the sacramental rites and pastoral offices that have evolved in the church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit: Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent, and Unction. The course seeks to develop the students as knowledgeable, capable, spiritually formed liturgical leaders within the Anglican tradition, capable of making sound pastoral decisions to engage the communities they serve in liturgy, which is indeed “the work of the people.” Students will engage with the history, theology, and ceremonial practices of the liturgical rites of the Church; the aesthetic and

nonverbal elements of each rite; and the role of liturgical music. Students will become well versed in the rites of the Church as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

The Practice of Ministry

Some Practice of Ministry courses require some in-person meetings.

Some Pastoral Ministry courses will be offered outside of the usual Saturday SfM schedule.

P - 1 / A - 11 Foundations of Episcopal Servant Ministry

The course will invite students to re-examine the place of scripture in our Episcopal ministry. There is a heavy focus in this course of learning to read scripture from the underside. That requires hearing familiar texts with fresh ears, and re-learning that we must hear each text read in full, not parceled out in small daily or weekend snippets. We will then consider the role of the BCP and the significance of the baptismal covenant as set forth in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

In the second half of the course, students will examine models of Episcopal/ Anglican servant ministry, including but not limited to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Pauli Murray, Verna Dozier, John Lewis, Desmond Tutu, Barbara Clementine Harris, and Kelly Brown Douglas. We will consider the servant ministry of each, rooted in scripture, tradition, reason, and worship. At the heart of this course is a question each student must answer: How do I apply the lessons of these models of Episcopal/ Anglican servant ministry to the work of the church – both corporate and individual – in a world where such gospel values as tolerance, community, reconciliation, diversity, and justice are so readily dismissed?

P - 2 / A - 12 Discipleship and Mission

Lay and ordained leaders in our communities must be disciples of the Lord who are committed both to their own growth and to encouraging the growth others in discipleship. Students will consider the array of skills that support this work, including coaching and the application of these skills when working with small groups, planning ministries, managing resources, communicating, and resolving conflicts. Students will continually examine the interplay between discipleship and nurturing the missional community, as well as the interplay between the structures and activities of our common life (e.g., administration, formation, worship, outreach, evangelism, justice and peace ministries, and ecumenism) and the mission of the church as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer: “The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” (BCP 855)

P - 3/ A - 13 Mission and the Ministry of Preaching

In this course, students will explore preaching as a ministry in which the preacher opens a space wherein the gathered community encounters God. Preaching is not about giving the community guidance for life, but about allowing the community to see the face of God as God becomes known through the scripture. Students will listen to and evaluate sermons of great preachers of today and of times past, considering different homiletic formats and diverse liturgical contexts. They will consider the relationship between speech performance, content, form, style, and context, with attention directed toward the clarity of the sermon claim and on sermon purpose. Students will consider introductions and conclusions; writing for the ear; visual and vocal engagement; confidence and authenticity in the role of the preacher. This course is considered an Anglican Studies course because it will provide opportunities for students to re-consider preaching within the context of the work and mission of the Episcopal community today.

P - 4/ A - 14 The Journey from Text to Sermon in Episcopal Communities

This course is grounded in the Episcopal lectionary cycle of readings and sound practices in the journey from text to delivered sermon. The course will invite students to deepen their readiness to hear the Word as truly living and active in their own lives, in the lives of the community, and in the world. Students will learn to approach the Word with a spirit of contemplative listening. They will learn to use close reading, exegetical tools and commentaries without allowing themselves to ever cede the Word they have heard to other experts. Regardless of whether the student anticipates preaching as a lay person, a deacon, or a priest, this course should strengthen the student's spiritual and ministerial readiness for preaching. Students will be encouraged to continually improve their practices of listening, questioning, and exegeting the text, and will develop sermon claims and prepare two sermons. Students will also learn how to provide improve their own sermons by providing helpful feedback to other preachers.

P - 5/ A - 15 Lay and Ordained Ministry in a Post-Christendom World

This course considers the call and work of ordained ministry in a post-Christendom age. Students will first review the theological and scriptural foundations of ordained ministry as apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, catechetical, and pastoral. Student will then be invited to consider discernment of call, pastoral practice, and ministerial ethics within the ecclesiology and theology of the Episcopal Church; the role of the ordained minister in the face of human suffering; the boundaries of ordained ministry; the practical living out of apostolic, prophetic,

evangelistic, catechetical, and pastoral roles today; the formation of pastoral identity, integrity and leadership; and pastoral self-care in a demanding world.

P - 6 / A - 16 Teaching for Christian Formation

Many - if not all - facets of Episcopal Servant Ministries benefit from applying tools of skillful pedagogy. This course will provide practical tools for deep study and usable techniques for teaching within the context of lay and ordained ministry. We will look at scripture through the lens of literature; we will see the Bible as story; we will examine the ways in which the stories are told. There will be some learning theory as well as concrete teaching practice. About half the course will be your planning, preparing, and teaching for the group. We will focus study content on the books that comprise the Ketuvim in the Jewish Bible and some epistles of apostles other than Paul in the Christian New Testament.

P - 7 / A - 17 Introduction to Pastoral Care in the Episcopal Congregation

This course introduces pastoral care as an act of stepping into the world of another with intention, attention, and skill, in order that the recipient of care can discover how to move toward the fullness of life in God. The course invites students to consider their own stories and experiences with gift, grace, grief, trauma, light and darkness. Students will be invited to discover the manner in which such experiences have either opened or closed space for movement toward the fullness of life. Students will consider pastoral care in multicultural contexts and will consider how their own social location and family of origin may inform their concerns and gifts in pastoral ministry.

P - 8 / A - 18 Clinical Pastoral Formation

Pastoral Care, as understood in this course, is the sacred practice of stepping into another's life with respect, intention, attention, and skill in order that they may step toward the fullness of life in Christ. This course is intended for deacons who are already engaged in pastoral ministry, who have not had CPE, who do not seek to become certified chaplains, and for whom certified clinical pastoral education programs are not feasible at this time. This course will provide clinical support so that ordained students can (1) experience pastoral caregiving in a supervised environment; (2) clearly distinguish pastoral care from counseling; (3) develop practical skill in pastoral care within the congregational setting (including spiritual assessment, understanding of the boundaries of the pastoral caregiving, and proper response to one's potentially problematic sensitivities in pastoral caregiving); (4) deepen awareness of and readiness to work with the cultural sensitivities that arise in pastoral care in the parish setting; and (5) confirm student commitment to remain well-within the established canonical

boundaries of appropriate pastoral care. Introduction to Pastoral Care in the Congregation must be taken either before this course or concurrently with this course.

P - 9/ A - 19 Nurturing the Formation and Ministry of All the Baptized

This course revisits the topics studied in the course Classical Christian Doctrine and the Catechism and seeks to explore how we are formed as followers of Jesus, and how we live and teach the Christian faith in our Episcopal communities today. Each class session will begin with an examination of specific affirmations within the Apostle's Creed. We will then explore the relationship between the credal statements considered, our own Episcopal formation, and the formation of Christian followers of Jesus. We will consider faith development, the instruments of formation (e.g., worship, teaching, bible study, spiritual discipline, and ministry), common structures of formation plans (children's programs, youth programs, young adult programs, adult programs, and intergenerational programs), as well as Episcopal Church governance statements on the formation and ministry of all the baptized.

P - 10/ A - 20 Parish Leadership

This course will explore effective parish administration and the skills and strategies that support parish ministry. Students will learn to view the administrative work of parish life as one tool in the work of forming Christians to carry out the mission of the church. This course will explore the practical skills lay leaders and clergy need to work collaboratively with each other, effectively with groups, undertake effective planning, understand parish finances, enhance communication within the parish and in the community at large, and manage and respond to the challenges that arise.

P - 11 Judaism and Jews in the Revised Common Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary is the most widely used lectionary in the world. It is ensconced in the Episcopal Church. It derives from the Roman Catholic Church's lectionary growing out of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. It uses a triennial cycles of readings. Each week has four lessons: one from Hebrew Scripture or Acts, one from Psalms, one from a canonical epistle, and one from a canonical Gospel. The intent behind the selections is to link them thematically. Altogether they expose the laity to about twenty per cent of the Bible. Numerous selections deal with Judaism and Jews as is inevitable for Christianity. But no attention was given the antijudaism or antijewism (AKA antisemitism) that may be conveyed by the selections or their linking. This course will examine some weeks from one of the three-year cycles both for the messages conveyed by the texts and how they might be preached from the pulpit.