

## Bible exposition: Bible through the eyes of (not only) theologians

### Genesis 28, 10-22:

#### Where Was Actually Jacob's Ladder?

**Jan Dušek, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor at the Protestant Theological Faculty (PTF) of Charles University, expert on ancient epigraphy, Centre for Biblical Studies of Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### Genesis 1 According to J. G. Herder

**Olga Navrátilová, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor at the PTF, lawyer and philosopher, expert on German classical philosophy. Fellow at the Department of Philosophy of the PTF and Vice-Dean of the PTF for international cooperation.

### Mark 4,1-20

**Jan Kranát, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor at the PTF, expert on German Idealism, Enlightenment, Modernism and Russian philosophy. Fellow at the Department of Philosophy of the PTF and chairman of the Academic senate of the PTF.

### Galatians 3,26-29

**Tabita Landová, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor at the PTF and the head of the Department of Practical theology, expert on theological aspects of the original Unity of the Brethren as well as ritual, liturgy and proclamation as seen through the lenses of contemporary anthropology.

### Church service with Communion / Simona Kopecká, Emil Hankovský

**Simona Kopecká** - legal assistant, actress (Odvaz Ostrava), ordained assistant preacher (ECCB congregation in Opava) and Deputy Synodal Trustee.

**Rev. Emil Hankovský** - minister (congregation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren - ECCB in Kyjov). Previously he served as minister in the Lutheran church in Slovakia.

### At Full Speed – into Disaster? / Petr Koubský

Apocalyptic scenarios are part of general culture. The present day offers many possible ways how the end of the world can come about: climate crisis, nuclear war, artificial intelligence, pandemics... Do new technologies, irresponsible millionaires and untrustworthy politicians make you nervous? Can we examine these scenarios rationally and explore their degree of probability? Can we get prepared before they hit or even contribute to deflecting them? This lecture will not offer complete answers - because they do not exist. However, its ambition is to present several suggestions on how we can approach and engage with the above.

**Ing. Petr Koubský, CSc.**: publicist, media analyst and academic (Prague University of Economics and Business, Charles University). He also works as a journalist for science and technology at Denik N and a commentator for Czech Radio.

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### Theology of Crisis / Ulrich Heinz Jürgen Körtner

**Prof. Dr. Ulrich H.J. Körtner**, Professor of Systematic theology at the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Vienna, Director of the Department for Ethics and Law in Medicine and Director of Department of Systematic Theology and Ethics of the Faculty in Vienna. Drawing on the work of Karl Barth, he focuses on the role the theology has or may have in understanding crises we are facing.

### Workshops

#### **Bible study: The Surprising Invitation to Surprising Abundance / Neil Thorogood**

We would focus particularly upon John 4: 1-42 and John 6: 1-15 with plenty of time for conversation around some questions I will prepare.

**Rev. Neil Thorogood** is an ordained minister of the United Reformed Church (URC) in the UK. Currently he serves as minister of two congregations: Thornbury URC and Trinity-Henleaze URC (Bristol). Before this he was, for 15 years, teaching at and then Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge. He is also active as an artist. Most of his art is either oil on canvas, often to a large scale, or charcoal on paper. Much of his art flows from faith, the Bible and the wonders of God's creation.

#### **Godly Play / Petra Bandhauer**

Workshop on how to incorporate play and creativity into catechesis to children based on Montessori education principles. Dealing with the story about the exile and homecoming or the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

**Petra Bandhauer, Ph.D.** received her doctorate in practical theology. She teaches English and German at the PTF. She also works as a teacher at primary school and kindergarten in Miličín. Passionate about teaching children about God, she managed a room dedicated to "Godly Play" in Sedlec-Prčice, a small town church in Central Bohemia. Besides, she works as a director and lecturer for "Godly Play".

#### **Prayer Inspired by Taizé / Karel Pacovský**

Prayer inspired by Taizé offers space for a prayer encounter accessible to people of different faith traditions and denominations as well as to people coming from different nations. Whether you have already had a chance to experience it or not, you are welcome to join us at the church of St. Martin in the Wall! The core of the workshop will be the prayer inspired by Taizé itself, composed of Taizé songs, Biblical reading and a time for reflection. After the prayer, there will be an opportunity to discuss how Taizé spirituality could be inspiring and enriching for our church. People will also have an opportunity to share if they already organised a similar gathering, what their experience was, and what could be used as an inspiration for others.

**Karel Pacovský, Ph.D.** works at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University and is at the same time pursuing a degree in protestant theology. He is engaged in animating the community gathering around the church of St. Martin in the Wall in the centre of Prague. Among other things he attends and co-organises regular prayer gatherings inspired by Taizé. He is grateful for the commitment of volunteers, especially musicians, thanks to whom these gatherings can take place (including the ones which will be part of this workshop).

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## Workshops

### **Pastors and Aging / Jan Šikl**

Every season in a pastor's journey has its specifics, advantages and disadvantages. Using the metaphor of a day, we will look in this workshop into the specifics of dawn, noon and evening of a pastor's journey. What are the things that aging can highlight in one's journey? And how to navigate twilight well? Lord have mercy!

**Jan Šikl, Ph.D.** is a psychologist, protestant, psychotherapist, catholic, psychoanalyst and Jungian analyst. He supervises pastor's training and trains new supervisors in the ECCB.

### **Boosting Personal Resilience for Crisis Management / Alexandra Lammelová**

What can the latest findings from neurosciences, psychotraumatology and developmental psychology teach us about psychological resilience, how it works and how can we strengthen it? In this workshop we will share some easy physical self care methods. Questions welcome!

**Alexandra Lammelová** is a psychotherapist and supervisor. She holds a degree in psychology from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University and has 10 years of experience with crisis intervention in different contexts. She teaches at The Prague College of Psychosocial Studies and is active in preparation for new hospital chaplains. She is active in trauma therapy and explores mental health treatment techniques based on neurosciences, such as Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR).

### **Pastoral magic / Adam Gajdoš**

A creative workshop looking into the many aspects of pastoral vocation. Make up your own "pastoral hero" character!

Adam Gajdoš, Ph.D. is a sociologist who has a particular interest in concepts of serving, religion and social inclusion. He studied protestant theology in Prague, Brno and Berlin. He is on track to become an ordained assistant preacher.

### **Spiritual and Mental Change and Transformation / Jan Šikl**

Parables and parallels between a pastor and a psychotherapist...

### **The Afternoon of the United Reformed Church in the UK: pointers and possibilities Neil Thorogood**

Starting with some of the reflections from Tomáš Halík, which a dear friend in the World Council of Churches, Revd Dr Susan Durber, pointed me to recently, I'll offer some of the realities of the URC that I shared at our Spring School, and some of the ways in which the future might be inviting us.

### **Yamaha oriental**

Tap your feet in the rhythm of balkan weddings, baptisms, discos and station buffets. Hypnotic grooves and psychedelic melodies of Roma musicians from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania spiced up by a bit of jazz from Prague. No matter where you invite them, you won't be able to stand still!

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### Is the Western Civilisation in Crisis?

**Tereza Matějčková and Jiří Pehe, presenter: Karel Pacovský**

Panel discussion of two prominent Czech intellectuals and journalists: political scientist Jiří Pehe and philosopher Tereza Matějčková. Their dialogue will focus on the current state of western civilisation and the crises that threaten it the most. They will also touch upon the challenges today's world represents for individuals, societies and churches. Host: Karel Pacovský.

**JUDr. Jiří Pehe L.L.M., M.I.A.** is a Czech political scientist, author and columnist. Since 1999 he is the director of the New York University in Prague. He regularly contributes to American, Czech and German newspapers and scientific journals and authored both scientific books as well as novels. In 2020 he was awarded the "Best column" award by OSF Foundation in Prague.

**Tereza Matějčková, Ph.D.** is a Czech philosopher and journalist. Until 2023 she was an associate professor at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Currently, she primarily dedicates her time to writing, contributing regularly to weekly Echo24. In 2024 she was presented with Magnesia Litera award in journalism for her collection of essays "God is Dead, Nothing is Permitted".

### Margins of Society / Apolena Rychlíková and Saša Uhlová

How is our society seen through the lens of the marginalised and the vulnerable?

**Apolena Rychlíková** is a documentary maker, director and journalist (Referendum, A2larm, Czech Radio, Pagenotfound).

**Saša Uhlová** is an expert in Romani studies and journalist (Romea, Deník referendum, A2larm).

**A. Rychlíková and S. Uhlová** are co-authors of a documentary Limits of Work and Limits of Europe about minimum wage low-skilled precarious jobs, both in Czechia and in Europe.

### Augustine's City of God or Collapse of the Eternal City / Lenka Karfíková

Augustine's extensive work The City of God was written soon after the fall of Rome in 410 AD and was certainly influenced by this breakthrough event. It focuses on a topic that Augustin pursued since his conversion: the confrontation between Christianity and declining pagan societies and their cults. His objective is clearly to show a completely different understanding of a relationship between religion and history compared to how it was understood in the culture of Ancient Rome. This basis can then lead into grasping Christianity as a truly eschatological religion which exists both within but also beyond human history.

**Professor Lenka Karfíková, Dr. theol.**, is a Czech theologian and philosopher focusing on the philosophy of Late Antiquity and its influence on early Christianity (for example the works of Origen, Gregory of Nyssa or Augustin), but also interested in modern philosophy (Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jan Patočka, Paul Ricoeur). She heads the Department of Philosophy at the PTF.

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Čt

**I Was a Stranger and You Invited Me in. How to Be a Light among the Nations**  
**Ilona Machandrová**

How can we create practical and meaningful connections between our personal and professional lives leading to a true compassion for the most vulnerable? What are the challenges and the opportunities in working with refugees in the light of the Great Commission "Go to all nations and make disciples"? Come to hear the story of an elder and lawyer from Český Těšín about the Balkan migratory route and doing mission as a lay person.

**Mgr. Ilona Machandrová** is a barrister and currently also an elder in the ECCB congregation in Český Těšín. She started her career as a barrister in 2019 and focuses mainly on migration law and asylum. She dedicates a portion of her free time to volunteering and mission among refugees. Using both her professional and personal experience, she co-founded and currently leads an NGO called Christian Refugee Service.

Pá

**...et tenebrae eam non comprehenderunt: Forming the Concept of Hope in Early Christianity / Jan Roskovec**

Hope became a key concept in early Christianity. However, their image of the future of the world had to be soon adapted. How has this process influenced the concept of hope? This talk will try to answer these questions through looking at several excerpts from works of early Christian thinkers about the "last things".

**Jan Roskovec, Ph.D.** associate professor at the PTF, is a New Testament scholar, focusing on John's and Paul's theology. He is currently serving as the Dean of the PTF.

**Lights in the Darkness / Irena Kalná, Karel Müller, Jakub Ort**

Inspirational stories of bringing light to dark places affected by crises.

**Irena Kalná** is a director of Hospice Saint Kleofas in South Bohemia, social worker, mum of four adult children, Christian, teacher in a Montessori kindergarten, musician and runner.

**Rev. Karel Müller** serves as a chaplain at a church-run primary school, therapist in training, crisis intervention specialist and pastor.

**Jakub Ort** has degrees in protestant theology and political science. He actively engages in different social movements and collectives. Jakub will share about how lay people can join forces to achieve positive changes in society and how different social movements can help in providing care and compassion our societies need.

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