



Reading the Bible with a Quaker Classics Scholar

A series of three evening lectures by Sarah Ruden

APRIL 12, 2018 • 7:30—9:00 pm

A Quaker Translator and the Blessed Bugbear of Biblical Authority

Access to scripture in the current plain language of the people was the rock on which the Protestant Reformation was founded. Bible translation was perhaps the greatest contributor to the key modern attitude of "Let me see for myself." But the scriptures originally were distinctly communitarian, aimed toward worshipping, celebrating, mourning, learning, and living together. How can a better appreciation of the original Bible's beauty, humor, mysteries, contradictions, and unities make this book a better source of inspiration and reconciliation in troubled times? And how can such an understanding of the Bible be offered without bitter cultural and political conflict?

APRIL 13, 2018 • 7:30—9:00 pm

Sitting in Meeting with Ancient Voices: Isaiah, Jesus, Paul

These three risk being regarded as icons, inhabiting a remote, one-dimensional unreality. But a literary reading of their words reveals levels of tenderness, wit, and emotional and spiritual struggle that standard translations give no reason to suspect. A central project of Friends is to listen. Can listening, not only to the bare words of scripture but also to its style and nuances, help us imagine what a face-to-face encounter would be like with those who shaped our faith and our world?

APRIL 14, 2018 • 7:30—9:00 pm

For Quaker Consideration (Seriously): The Bible in the *Confessions* of Augustine

Though almost unknown in Quaker circles, Augustine is a literary genius we should consider. As a sect, we have often drawn new, unexpected inspiration from old texts, and that is what Augustine did himself. Rather than merely quoting from the Bible in the commonly used translation of his time, the Old Latin, Augustine turns that version of scripture into a new language, which he uses in speculating freely about the nature of being. He writes not in ordinary Latin, but in Latin Bible, with some striking and inspiring results.

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*For more information about Sarah Ruden
and her work, visit www.pendlehill.org*

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