

Chicago Theological Seminary

CONVOCATION

WINTER 2024

**“Of Master’s Tools
and Moral Anguish”
by Dr. Zachary Moon**

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Zachary Moon was born in Oakland California and raised in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). At age 23, he was called to preach by Faith Community Church in Greensboro North Carolina. He is a graduate of Vassar College (BA, 2004), Chicago Theological Seminary (MDiv 2010), and Iliff School of Theology (Ph.D.

2016). He has served on the full-time teaching faculty of Chicago Theological Seminary since 2016, now as Professor of Theology and Psychology. He has published widely, including four books: *Coming Home: Ministry That Matters with Veterans and Military Families* (Chalice Press, 2015), *Warriors between Worlds: Moral Injury and Identities in Crisis* (Lexington Books, 2019), *Goatwalking: A Quaker Pastoral Theology* (Brill, 2021), and *Doing Theology in Pandemics: Facing Viruses, Violence, and Vitriol* (Pickwick, 2022). Prior to his academic work, he served as a chaplain in multiple contexts with specialization in working with military personnel, veterans, and military families impacted by trauma and moral injury. Outside of the academic sphere, you will find Zachary coaching youth soccer on the South-side of Chicago.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude.....Randall Johnson

Greetings

from the President.....Brad Braxton

from the Academic Dean.....Emily Vogt

Opening Prayer.....José Francisco Morales Torres

Song

“Someday We’ll All Be Free”led by JoAnne Marie Terrell

Readings

“Survival” by Audre Lorde.....Dawn Piriani Brumfield

Qur’an, Al-Balad, Surah 90: verses 12-17.....Leenah Safi

“Exercise of Imagination” by Ursula K. Le Guin.....Rachel Payden

Convocation Address

“Of Master’s Tools and Moral Anguish”Zachary Moon

Community Prayer.....Kameelah Mu’min Oseguera

Postlude.....Randall Johnson

TEXT OF READINGS

“[S]urvival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to stand alone, unpopular and sometimes reviled, and how to make common cause with those others identified as outside the structures in order to define and seek a world in which we can all flourish. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change. And this fact is only threatening to those who still define the master’s house as their only source of support.”

– Audre Lorde

And do you realize what is the steep road?
It is freeing of a human being from bondage,
or offering food on a day of starvation
to an orphan who is a relative,
or to an indigent person who is down in the dust-
all the while, being of those who believe-
and who exhort one another to [persevere in faith with] patience,
and who exhort one another to mercifulness.

– Qur’an, Al-Balad, Surah 90: verses 12-17

“The exercise of imagination is dangerous to those who profit from the way things are because it has the power to show that the way things are is not permanent, not universal, not necessary.”

– Ursula Le Guin