

Chicago Theological Seminary

CONVOCATION

FALL 2024

**“How to do Theology with
Photographic Pictures:
Photographs as Icons”
by Dr. Bo Myung Seo**

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Bo-Myung Seo is Professor of Theology & Cultural Criticism at Chicago Theological Seminary. He completed his B.A. at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, M.A. at University of Chicago, Chicago, and M.Div. and Ph.D. at Chicago Theological Seminary. His research and writing interests are in cultural theories and comparative

thought.

“How we understand specific passages of the Bible and the nature of prophecy often depends on how we view the world,” says Dr. Seo. “Whether we seek to transform or merely to understand the world, we proceed with a prior conception of how the world is or is meant to be. So being open to and learning from the achievements of other ‘worldly’ disciplines, as it helps us understand today’s world, is an important part of how we do theology today. Also, geographically, the West is no longer the dominant center of Christianity, and the growth of churches in the Third World should be accompanied by a different theological consciousness. I have come to see the central issue facing today’s world as that of domination. Domination is always based on power, forcing its will, interest and logic unto others. How to speak for the dominated of the world is an important theological question. Theology can no longer dwell comfortably in the realm of the sacred. As we are called into the world, our task is to start with the realities of the world.”

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude.....Randall Johnson

Opening Poem

“Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver.....Kim Schultz

Land Acknowledgement.....Brian Smith

Greetings

from the President.....Brad Braxton

from the Academic Dean.....Emily Vogt

from the Student Community.....Aisha Subhan

from the Alumni Community.....Haley Hudler

Reading of Scripture

Biblical Scripture..... Hausian Suan

Qur’anic Scripture.....Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir

Convocation Address

“How to do Theology with Photographic Pictures:

Photographs as Icons”.....Bo Myung Seo

Delivered by Peter Ricci

Song

“Beauty in the World”.....Macy Gray

Closing Prayer

Adapted from Rabbi Danny Nevins.....Rachel Mikva

Postlude.....Randall Johnson

TEXT OF READINGS

Exodus 20:4

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about[a] these things.

Chapter 59, The Gathering, verse 24

He is God: the Creator, the Inventor, the Shaper. He alone has the Most Beautiful Names. Whatever is in the heavens and the earth constantly glorifies Him. And He is the Almighty, All-Wise.

Chapter 32, The Prostration, verses 7-9

He Who has made everything which He has created most good: He began the creation of mankind with (nothing more than) clay. Then He made his descendants from an extract of a humble fluid, then He fashioned them and had a spirit of His Own creation breathed into them. And He gave you hearing, sight, and intellect. Yet you hardly give any thanks.