

Thursday, March 22

My Bright Abyss, Christian Wiman,

(Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2013).

This book is a moving meditation on what a contemporary Christian faith might look like, especially in the face of death. Composed in the difficult years after Wiman faced a diagnosis of incurable blood cancer, it is joyful, sorrowful, and beautifully written and may well become a spiritual classic. This seems like a good book to ponder during Lent.



Thursday, May 17

The Last Battle; volume 7 of The Chronicles of Narnia, C.S. Lewis (Harper Collins, 2000)

and

The Lion's World: A Journey into the Heart of Narnia Rowan Williams (SPCK, 2012)

In *The Last Battle*, Lewis writes of the events that led to the end of Narnia, a tale which stimulates thinking on what death, or perhaps the end of our world, might look like. Tom Wright says about Williams' *The Lion's World* "...Those who have loved Narnia since childhood will here discover fresh and sometimes disturbing depths of meaning and power..." On the subject of death both have much to say, both thought-provoking and comforting.



All are welcome, Please join in.



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Redeemer Readers

Church of the Redeemer's Book Club

2017-18

Church of the Redeemer's Book Club

Welcome to Redeemer Readers—the Church of the Redeemer book group. The group will meet this year in the board room on the lower level for one hour at **noon** on five **Thursdays**—**October 19, December 7, February 1, March 22 and May 17**. New members are always welcome and all are welcome to attend as many of the five sessions as you can. This year our books focus on questions about what happens to us when we die.

The Books We Will Read

Thursday, October 19

***Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense*, Frances Spufford**, (Faber and Faber, 2012).

In Spufford's book, through tone and vocabulary that are colloquial and chatty, the question addressed is not what happens to us when we die, but a more general setting out of the grounds of uncertainty within Christian belief. This seems like a good place to start the conversation.



Thursday, December 7

***The Ransom of the Soul: Afterlife and Wealth in Early Western Christianity*, Peter Brown**, (Harvard University Press, 2015).

Peter Brown, a revered historian of late antiquity, presents a fascinating picture of the changes in belief that occurred between 250 and 650 about what happened to the soul after death, and how human agency could help join heaven and earth by prayer and almsgiving. Money played an ever more decisive role in this agency, as wealthy Christians became concerned not just about how their money might help their beloved dead but also the afterlife of their own souls.



Thursday, February 1

***A History of Heaven: The Singing Silence* Jeffrey Burton Russell** (Princeton University Press, 1997)

American historian, Jeffrey Russell, details the history of concepts about heaven from the first century to the time of Dante's writing of the *Paradiso* (ca 1320). Its early chapters cover some of the same ground as Brown's book, but in an entirely different way, being more factually and less argumentatively based,

