

8-24-2000

'The Bible and its Interpretation' Opens UD Distinguished Speaker Season

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"'The Bible and its Interpretation' Opens UD Distinguished Speaker Season" (2000). *News Releases*. 9357.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/9357

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlange1@udayton.edu.



Aug. 24, 2000
Contact: Pam Huber
Huber@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

'THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETATION' OPENS UD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SEASON

DAYTON, Ohio — The Rev. Peter J. Gomes, Plummer professor of Christian morals and Pusey minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard University, will open the University of Dayton's 2000-2001 Distinguished Speaker Series season with a talk on "Transformed and Transforming Texts: The Bible and its Interpretation."

Gomes will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

"It is a book that invites, that opens, that compels, that consoles, that comforts, that redefines our relationship to ourselves, to each other, and to God," he said in an address to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in June 1999. "And the book that is capable of doing that is the book to which I am prepared to devote all the powers and skills and graces that God has given me."

Gomes, author of *The Good Book: Reading The Bible With Mind and Heart* (1996) and *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* (1998), is widely regarded as one of America's most distinguished preachers, and he participated in the presidential inaugurations of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. He's been profiled in *The New Yorker* and by *60 Minutes*.

He describes himself as a Christian and a preacher. "That's what I do. That is my profession. You know, I am a Republican, I am a homosexual, I am an African-American, I am a

-over-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

New Englander, I'm a historian, I'm a pastor. I'm all these things. But I am a preacher, and I'm passionately concerned about communicating ultimate things to people," he said in a September 1997 interview on C-SPAN's *Booknotes*.

He also talked on *Booknotes* of the comprehensive and evolving nature of the Bible. "The real task in dealing with a vast collection like this is to find: What are the large, overarching principles that may hold this together?," he said. "How do we distinguish between what is, in a sense, universally and always true, and what is locked and located in a particular social and cultural circumstance which no longer exists? Which means that the Bible is a book that demands constant interpretation. You simply cannot accept it as the telephone directory of life or as a kind of unvarying road map that is the same today as it was 200 years ago or 2,000 years ago. It's simply not so."

A member of the arts and sciences faculty and the divinity faculty at Harvard University, Gomes holds degrees from Bates College and Harvard Divinity School. He also has received 10 honorary degrees.