

## ARTHUR HOLDER

Emeritus Professor of Christian Spirituality and Emeritus Dean  
Graduate Theological Union  
Berkeley, California

### Education

Ph.D. Duke University, 1987 (Historical Theology)  
M.Div. General Theological Seminary, 1976  
A.B. Duke University *magna cum laude*, 1973 (English and Religion)

### Previous Academic Experience

Professor of Christian Spirituality and Accreditation Liaison Officer, Graduate Theological Union, 2016-24.

Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and John Dillenberger Professor of Christian Spirituality, Graduate Theological Union, 2002-16.

Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Christian Spirituality, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 1995-2002.

Associate Professor of Religion and Education and Director of Field Education, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 1991-95.

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of Field Education, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 1986-91.

### Courses Taught at CDSP and GTU

*Research Methods*: Seminar on Interdisciplinarity; History and Culture Seminar; MA Research Methods

*Christian Spirituality*: Elements of Christian Spirituality; Readings in Medieval Latin Spirituality; History of Christian Spirituality; Celtic Spirituality; Medieval English Mystics; Song of Songs in Christian Spirituality; Doctoral Seminar in Christian Spirituality; Postcolonial Readings of Christian History; Spirituality: Theory and Methods

*Religious Education*: Education for Spiritual Formation; Liturgical Catechesis; History and Philosophy of Christian Education; Bible and Religious Education; Catechesis, Community, and Culture; Christian Religious Education

*Pastoral Theology*: History of Pastoral Care and Counseling; Ministry in Christian Tradition; Senior Colloquium: Professional Issues in Ministry; Concurrent Field Education; Internship; Congregational Studies Colloquium; Theological Reflection Colloquium

## **Publications**

### **Books:**

*Biblical Exegesis and Mystical Theology in the Venerable Bede*, Variorum Collected Studies, Routledge, 2024.

*The Venerable Bede: On the Song of Songs and Selected Writings*, Classics of Western Spirituality, Paulist Press, 2011.

*Christian Spirituality: The Classics*, Routledge, 2010.

*The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

*Bede: A Biblical Miscellany*, with W. Trent Foley, Translated Texts for Historians 28, Liverpool University Press, 1999.

*Bede: On the Tabernacle*, Translated Texts for Historians 18, Liverpool University Press, 1994.

### **Published Lecture:**

“Bede and the Spiritual Senses,” The Jennifer O’Reilly Memorial Lecture for 2022, Iona Press, 2023.

### **Chapters in Edited Volumes:**

“Co-Heirs of Christ’s Glory: Deification in Bede.” In *Bede the Scholar*, ed. Máirín MacCarron and Peter Darby (Manchester University Press, 2023), 33-52.

“Epilogue: Christian Reception of the Song of Songs Since 1800.” In *A Companion to the Song of Songs in the History of Spirituality*, ed. Timothy Robinson (Brill, 2021), 358-80.

“Bede’s *perfecti*, the Vision of God, and the Foretaste of Heaven.” In *Cities, Saints and Communities in Early Medieval Europe: Essays in Honour of Alan T. Thacker*, ed. Scott DeGregorio and Paul Kershaw (Turnhout: Brepols, 2020), 265-85.

“Charism, Patrimony, or Ethos?: How Anglicans and Roman Catholics Talk about Spiritual Traditions.” In *Drenched in Grace: Essays in Baptismal Ecclesiology Inspired by the Work and Ministry of Louis Weil*, ed. Lizette Larson-Miller and Walter Knowles (Wipf & Stock, 2013), 161-76.

“Hunting Snakes in the Grass: Bede as Heresiologist.” In *Listen, O Isles, Unto Me: Studies in Medieval Word and Image in Honour of Jennifer O’Reilly*, ed. Elizabeth Mullins and Diarmuid Scully (Cork University Press, 2011), 105-14.

“Bede and the New Testament.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Bede*, ed. Scott DeGregorio (Cambridge University Press, 2010), 142-55.

“Gregory the Great: *Book of Pastoral Rule*.” In *Christian Spirituality: The Classics*, ed. Arthur Holder (Routledge, 2010), 74-85.

“Foreword.” In *The Path of No Path: Contemporary Studies in Pure Land Buddhism Honoring Roger Corless*, ed. Richard K. Payne (Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2009), viii-x.

“Using Philosophers to Think With: The Venerable Bede on Christian Life and Practice.” In *The Subjective Eye: Essays in Culture, Religion, and Gender in Honor of Margaret R. Miles*, ed. Richard Valantasis in collaboration with Deborah J. Haynes, James D. Smith, III, and Janet F. Carlson, Princeton Theological Monograph Series (Pickwick Publications, 2006), 48-58.

“Christ as Incarnate Wisdom in Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” In *Innovation and Tradition in the Writings of the Venerable Bede*, Medieval European Series 7, ed. Scott DeGregorio (West Virginia University Press, 2006), 169-88.

“The Feminine Christ in Bede’s Biblical Commentaries.” In *Bède le Vénérable entre tradition et postérité*, ed. Stéphane Lebecq, Michel Perrin, and Olivier Szerwiniack (Lille: 3-CEGES and Turnhout: Brepols, 2005), 109-18.

“The Anti-Pelagian Character of Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” In *Biblical Studies in the Early Middle Ages*, ed. Claudio Leonardi and Giovanni Orlandi (SISMEL: Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2005), 91-103.

“Sermons of Columbanus.” Translations with introduction, in *Religions of Late Antiquity in Practice*, ed. Richard Valantasis (Princeton University Press, 2000), 109-21.

“(Un)Dating Bede’s *De arte metrica*.” In *Northumbria’s Golden Age*, ed. Jane Hawkes and Susan Mills (Sutton Publishing, 1999), 390-95.

### Journal Articles:

“Religious Experience and Sacred Text.” In special issue entitled “In the Divine Presence: Essays in Honour of Kees Waaijman on His 80th Birthday.” *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 33 (2022), 1-16.

“The Problem with ‘Spiritual Classics.’” *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 10:1 (2010), 22-37.

“Whitby and All That: The Search for Anglican Origins.” *Anglican Theological Review* 85:2 (2003), 231-52.

“The Patristic Sources of Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” *Studia Patristica* 34 (2001), 370-75.

“Teaching Christian Spirituality in Seminaries Today.” (with Lisa Dahill) *Christian Spirituality Bulletin* 7:2 (Fall/Winter, 1999), 7-12.

“Styles of Clerical Address in the Letters of Augustine.” *Studia Patristica* 33 (1997), 100-4.

“The Mosaic Tabernacle in Early Christian Exegesis.” *Studia Patristica* 25 (1993), 101-6.

“God Biggie Biggie: A Case Study in the Globalization of Theological Education.” *Journal for Case Teaching* 4 (Fall, 1992), 27-33.

“Saint Basil the Great on Secular Education and Christian Virtue.” *Religious Education* 87:3 (1992), 395-415.

“Making True Disciples: Models of Theological Education from the Early Church.” *St. Luke’s Journal of Theology* 34:3 (1991), 17-32.

“The Venerable Bede on the Mysteries of Our Salvation.” *American Benedictine Review* 42:2 (1991), 140-62.

“Bede and the Tradition of Patristic Exegesis.” *Anglican Theological Review* 72:4 (1990), 399-411.

“New Treasures and Old in Bede’s *De tabernaculo* and *De templo*.” *Revue Bénédictine* 99:3-4 (1989), 237-49.

“Allegory and History in Bede’s Interpretation of Sacred Architecture.” *American Benedictine Review* 40:2 (1989), 115-31.

### **Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries**

“Spirituality, Christian Forms of.” In *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, ed. Daniel Patte (Cambridge University Press, 2010), 1183-84.

“Aaron,” “Bede,” and “Golden Calf.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Walter de Gruyter, 2009- ).

“Bede,” “Benedict of Nursia,” and “Gregory I.” In *New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*, ed. Robert Benedetto (Westminster/John Knox, 2008).

“Discipline,” “Knowledge,” “Vocation,” and “Wisdom.” In *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*, ed. Philip Sheldrake (UK: SCM; USA: Westminster/John Knox, 2005), 250-1, 396-7, 638-9, 643-4.

“Bede,” “Bernard of Clairvaux,” and “Berthold of Regensburg.” In *The Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*, ed. Richard Lischer and William Willimon (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995), 29-30, 33-7.

“Bede.” In *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Old and Middle English Literature*, ed. Jeffrey Helterman (Brucoli Clark Layman, 1994), 29-43.

### Book Reviews

David B. Yaden and Andrew B. Newberg. *The Varieties of Spiritual Experience: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Perspectives*, in *Theological Studies* 84:2 (2023).

Douglas Christie, *The Insurmountable Darkness of Love*, in *Journal for the Study of Spirituality* 13:1 (2023): 88-90.

Ashley Cocksworth and John C. McDowell, eds., *T&T Clark Handbook of Christian Prayer*, in *Theological Studies* 83:3 (2022): 499.

Máirín MacCarron, *Bede and Time: Computus, Theology and History in the Early Medieval World*, in *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies* 97:1 (2022): 217-8.

Brent Smith, *Religious Studies and the Goal of Interdisciplinarity*, in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 23:2 (2020).

Jared Ortiz, ed., *Deification in the Latin Patristic Tradition*, for *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*, December 16, 2019; <http://readingreligion.org/books/deification-latin-patristic-tradition>

Karl Shuve, *The Song of Songs and the Fashioning of Identity in Early Latin Christianity*, for *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*, January 25, 2018; <http://readingreligion.org/books/song-songs-and-fashioning-identity-early-latin-christianity>.

George E. Demacopoulos, *Gregory the Great: Ascetic, Pastor, and First Man of Rome*, in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 16:2 (2016): 280-2.

Roger Haight, *Spirituality Seeking Theology*, in *Theology* 118:6 (2015): 456-7.

*The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Christian Mysticism*, edited by Julia A. Lamm, in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 14:1 (2014), 118-20.

*Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*, edited by Glen G. Scorgie with consulting editors Simon Chan, Gordon T. Smith, and James D. Smith III, in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 12:2 (2012), 304-7.

J. Robert Wright, *A Companion to Bede: A Reader's Commentary on the Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, in *Anglican and Episcopal History* 78:3 (2009), 327-9.

Evan B. Howard, *The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality*, in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 9:2 (2009), 248-50.

Patrick Wormald, *The Times of Bede: Studies in Early English Christian Society and Its Historian*, in *Church History*, in *Church History* 77:1 (2008), 155-7.

Mark Atherton, ed., *Celts and Christians: New Approaches to the Religious Traditions of Britain and Ireland*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 87:1 (2005), 124-7.

Rachel Fulton, *From Judgment to Passion: Devotion to Christ and the Virgin Mary, 800-1200*, in *Church History* 73:1 (2004), 197-9.

J. Edward Wright, *The Early History of Heaven*, in *Church History* 71:4 (2002), 865.

Norvene Vest, *Desiring Life: Benedict on Wisdom and the Good Life*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 83:3 (2001), 678-79.

Oliver Davies, *Celtic Spirituality* (Classics of Western Spirituality), in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 1:1 (2001), 126-29.

Cintra Pemberton, *Soulfaring: Celtic Pilgrimage Then and Now*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 83:1 (2001), 166-7.

Michael E. Stone and Theodore A. Bergren, eds., *Biblical Figures Outside the Bible*, in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 8:4 (2000), 613-14.

Christophe de Dreuille, ed., *L'Église et la mission au VI<sup>e</sup> siècle: La mission d'Augustin de Cantorbéry et les Églises de Gaule sous l'impulsion de Grégoire le Grand. Actes du Colloque d'Arles de 1998*, in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 8:4 (2000), 602-4.

Benedicta Ward, *High King of Heaven: Aspects of Early English Spirituality*; George Henderson, *Vision and Image in Early Christian England*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 82:4 (2000), 826-28.

Peter Ball, *Anglican Spiritual Direction*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 82:2 (2000), 433-34.

Francis Kline, *Lovers of the Place: Monasticism Loose in the Church*; Norvene Vest, *Friend of the Soul: A Benedictine Spirituality of Work*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 80:3 (1998), 450-51.

Michael Lapidge, ed., *Columbanus: Studies on the Latin Writings*, in *Church History* 67:1 (1998), 128-29.

Karen Louise Jolly, *Popular Religion in Late Saxon England: Elf Charms in Context*, in *Church History* 67:1 (1998), 131-32.

John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*; Esther de Waal, *The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of the Religious Imagination*; Michael Mitton, *The Soul of Celtic Spirituality: In the Lives of Its Saints*, in *Christian Spirituality Bulletin* 5:2 (1997), 20-22.

Nicholas Orme, ed., *Nicholas Roscarrock's Lives of the Saints: Cornwall and Devon*, in *Church History* 65:2 (1996), 279-80.

Nigel Ramsay, Margaret Sparks, and Tim Tatton-Brown, eds., *St. Dunstan: His Life, Times and Cult*, in *Church History* 64:4 (1995), 650-1.

Folker Siegert, *Drei hellenistisch-jüdische Predigten*, in *Religious Studies Review* 19:4 (1993), 364-65.

Roberta C. Bondi, *To Pray and to Love: Conversations on Prayer with the Early Church*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* 36:3 (1993), 427-28.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, *Teaching from the Heart: Theology and Educational Method*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 74:4 (1992), 512-14.

Robert D. Duggan and Maureen A. Kelly, *The Christian Initiation of Children: Hope for the Future*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* 35:3 (1992), 316.

Philip L. Culbertson and Arthur Bradford Shippee, eds., *The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period*, in *Sewanee Theological Review* 35:1 (1991), 104-5.

Donald Capps and James E. Dittes, eds., *Hunger of the Heart: Reflections on the "Confessions" of Augustine*, in *The Journal of Pastoral Care* 45 (1991), 210-11.

G. R. Evans, *The Language and Logic of the Bible: The Earlier Middle Ages*, in *Books and Religion* 13 (Nov./Dec., 1985), 10.

### **Scholarly Papers and Presentations**

“‘Likeness is the chief delight: Meister Eckhart on the Metaphysics of Joy.’” Interfaith Conference on Joy: Community, Inclusion, and Social Justice, Graduate Theological Union, April 2023.

“Bede and the Spiritual Senses.” The Jennifer O’Reilly Memorial Lecture, School of History, University of Cork, April 2022.

“Mysticism and Reform in the Venerable Bede.” American Society of Church History/ American Catholic Historical Association Joint Spring Meeting, Berkeley, April 2017.

“Bede and the Christological Controversies.” Fiftieth International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2015.

“Faces of Spirituality: Experience and Text.” William Johnston, SJ, Memorial Lecture in Spirituality, All Hallows College, Dublin City University, October 2013.

“Religious Experience as Sacred Text.” Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts Lecture, GTU Library, March 2013.

“Will Spirituality Have a Past?” GTU Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Berkeley, November 2010.

“The Problem with ‘Spiritual Classics.’” Presidential Address, Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Annual Meeting, Montreal, November 2009.

“Bede and the New Testament.” Forty-fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2009.

“Teaching Christian Spirituality: The Introductory Doctoral Seminar.” Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2006.

“How Heresy Works: Bede as Contextual Theologian.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, May 2005.

“Reading Bede’s Commentaries in the Context of His Life, Controversies, and Commitments.” Fortieth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2005.

“Bede and the Philosophers.” Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, April 2003.

“The Feminine Christ in Bede’s Biblical Commentaries.” Conference on “Bède le

Vénérable: bilan et perspectives,” Amiens and Lille, France, July 2002.

“Whitby and All That: The Search for Anglican Origins.” CDSP’s Epiphany West Conference: “OtherWise: The Ethos of Anglican Spirituality,” January 2002.

“The Anti-Pelagian Character of Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” Second International Conference on Biblical Studies in the Early Middle Ages, Gargnano, Italy, June 2001.

“Christ as Incarnate Wisdom in Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” Thirty-fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2000.

“Patristic Sources of Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, August 1999.

“Teaching Christian Spirituality in Seminaries Today” (with Lisa Dahill). GTU Area Colloquium on Teaching Christian Spirituality, April 16 1999.

“Teaching the Introductory Course in Christian Spirituality.” Association of Theological Schools Teaching and Learning Conference, Pittsburgh, February 1999.

“Bede on Eternal Punishment and the Times of Antichrist.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 1998.

“The History of Divine Wisdom in Bede’s Commentary on the Song of Songs.” Conference on “Bede as Writer and Thinker” sponsored by the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota, April 1998.

“(Un)Dating Bede’s *De arte metrica*.” Golden Age of Northumbria Conference, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, August 1996.

“Styles of Clerical Address in the Letters of Augustine.” Twelfth International Patristics Conference, Oxford, August 1995.

“An Augustinian Echo and the (Un)dating of Bede’s *De arte metrica*.” Twenty-ninth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 1994.

Review of Douglas Burton-Christie, *The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism*. American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, March 1994.

“Secular Education and Christian Virtue in Basil of Caesarea’s *Ad adolescentes*.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 1992.

“Basil the Great on Secular Education and Christian Virtue.” Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education Annual Meeting, Chicago November, 1991.

“The Mosaic Tabernacle in Early Christian Exegesis.” Eleventh International Patristics Conference, Oxford, August 1991.

“Models of Theological Education: A Typology of Approaches from the Early Church.” Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education Annual Meeting, Boulder, November 1990.

“The Mosaic Tabernacle in Patristic Exegesis.” Twenty-first International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 1986.

“Bede on the Spiritual Meaning of Church Buildings.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York City, December 1985.

“Why Did Bede Write Commentaries on the Tabernacle and the Temple?” Twentieth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 1985.

### **Service to Professional Societies**

American Academy of Religion (co-chair, Christian Spirituality Group, 2003-08;  
Theological Education Committee, 2013-16)  
Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (Governing Board, 1999-2009; Vice  
President, 2008; President, 2009)  
*Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* (Editorial Committee, 2000-05)

### **Honors and Awards**

Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University,  
2022.  
Excellence in Teaching Award, Graduate Theological Union, 2019.  
Medieval & Renaissance Fellow, Duke, 1980-83.  
Angier B. Duke Scholar, Duke, 1970-73.  
Phi Beta Kappa, 1973.