

Why have “the Gospel According to Shakespeare”?

In our time, we’ve seen books on the Gospel according to Peanuts, the Gospel according to the Simpsons, the gospel according to Harry Potter, the gospel according to Tolkien, the gospel according to Disney, even the gospel according to the Sopranos. Isn’t this just some kind of catchy cultural trend?

We think not. All good and enduring stories touch hearts because they reflect something of foundational truths about good, evil, redemption, beauty, and meaning. In short, where there is truth, goodness, and beauty, there we see signposts pointing us to the gospel.

The Gospel According to Shakespeare isn’t about saying what Shakespeare *meant*, as though he were a preacher with an axe to grind. Rather it is about reflecting on good and enduring stories, and using that reflection as a springboard to the Biblical Story.

We’ll follow along with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival’s season. We hope you join us for stimulating discussion about great literature.

Macbeth

Playing October 14-November 20

Discussion at Covenant-First: Wednesday October 19. 7pm.

Discussion at Llanfair Community: Thursday November 3. 2pm.

Ambition, occult, madness, and murder. Join us as we discuss one of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedies.

“There’s daggers in men’s smiles” Act 2, sc. 3.

Love’s Labour’s Lost

Playing December 2-31

Discussion at Covenant-First: Wednesday December 7. 7pm.

Discussion at Llanfair Community: Thursday December 8. 7pm.

Can man forsake the prospect of love for devotion to study? We’ll discuss this clever comedy of wordplay to find out.

“For where is any author in the world teaches such beauty as a woman’s eye? Learning is but an adjunct to ourself.” Act 4, sc 3.

Henry VIII

Playing January 13-February 5

Discussion at Covenant-First: Wednesday January 25. 7pm.

Discussion at Llanfair Community: Thursday January 26. 2pm.

The ambition and amor of one of the most famous monarchs of all time. Is he villain or hero? Come discuss it with us.

“Men’s evil manners live in brass; their virtues we write in water.” Act 4, sc 2.

Merchant of Venice

Playing May 11-June 3

Discussion at Covenant-First: Wednesday May 16. 7pm.

Discussion at Llanfair Community: Thursday May 17. 2pm.

Close the season with a romantic comedy that features the best speech ever given by a villain.

“If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?” Act 3, sc 1.

“The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from
heaven upon the place beneath. It is
twice blest: It blesseth him that gives
and him that takes.

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it
becomes the throned monarch better
than his crown; His sceptre shows the
force of temporal power, the attribute
to awe and majesty, wherein doth sit
the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show
likest God's, when mercy seasons
justice.”

Merchant of Venice Act 4, sc 1

Covenant-First Presbyterian

717 Elm St

Cincinnati, OH 45202

513-621-4144

www.covfirstchurch.org

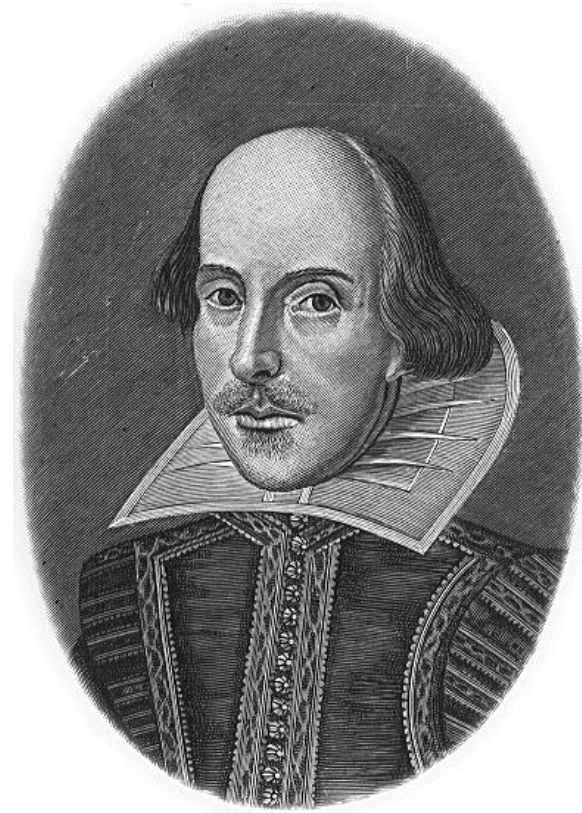
Visit us on Facebook

Sunday worship 10:30am

Wednesday worship 12:00

**COVENANT-FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

PRESENTS



The Gospel According to Shakespeare

2011-12 Season