

“New Lectio Divina” and “Scripture from the Heart” are terms Professor Kate Burke uses for group Scripture immersion sessions which guide participants through a profound experience of the words of Sacred Scripture. Based on actor training techniques developed at Britain’s Roysl Shakespeare Theatre, New Lectio Divina is a journey into the profound meaning and images embedded in God’s word. Burke facilitates a cumulative experience of an entire scriptural passage with a playful yet reverent exploration of the architecture of the text, in a safe, supportive space. A sequence of group activities reveals the Word’s rhetorical persuasiveness and God’s intense desire to communicate with each of us in relationship, through words.



Holy Redeemer School, Evansville, Indiana



Kate Burke

is an Associate Professor in the University of Virginia Department of Drama. A specialist in speaking voice and the spoken word, she teaches Voice, Acting, and Dialects and serves as voice coach for the annual season of productions. She is a member of the professional Actors’ Equity Association with acting and voice coaching credits in regional theatres across the U.S. and a Past-President of VASTA, the Voice and Speech Trainers Association, Inc. She is an inaugural member of the University of Virginia Academy of Teaching.

Selected Clients

Virginia Baptist Mission Board/Charlottesville
Mennonite Church/Theological Horizons/St.
Thomas Aquinas Catholic Student Ministry/
Soujourners United Church of Christ/Bonair
Baptist Church/Eastern Mennonite University/
Richmond Hill/Valley Cursillo/Westminster
Presbyterian Church/Effort Baptist Church

“...Perhaps ‘Prayer’ for many people is the most sacred and direct understanding of the power of language. Kate Burke’s own life journey and experience, coupled with her considerable skills as a Voice Teacher put her uniquely placed to lead this work...”

—Andrew Wade, Head of Voice, Royal Shakespeare Company (1990-2003)

“I felt myself strangely and wonderfully stirred as I was reading Scripture after Friday’s experience with you...You have given me the impetus to speak the words aloud, to experience the sounds, silences, cadences unnoticed in silent reading...”

—Rev. Claire Wolterstorff, Episcopal Priest

“Kate Burke set the tone for a holy, warm gathering in which I could safely explore... and grow in my understanding of the Word. Sharing this experience alongside other believers strengthened my confidence to proclaim... the Good News of Jesus Christ. The unique exercises... enriched my heart.”

—Ross Goodwin, lector, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

“It is hard to describe... ‘New Lectio Divina’...you read a text aloud in over a dozen different ways... the text comes alive. The scripture turns ‘3D’... the words leap up from the page... in different fonts and sizes... You notice each word and how words work together. And on a deeper level the text becomes written on the heart.”

—Maren Hange, Co-pastor, Charlottesville Mennonite Church