

Feasting with favorite writers

## **The *Century* asked writers and teachers, Which three authors—living or dead—would you invite over for dinner?**

Books

May 2, 2017



**Emily Dickinson and Søren Kierkegaard joke about considering the lilies, by Kathleen Norris**: Oscar Wilde shared with Dickinson and Kierkegaard a deep love of scripture and a talent for playing with it.

**Dorothy Sayers, Charles Williams, and W. H. Auden discuss their unconventional love lives, by Charles Hefling**: How do lovers in the "world of the flesh" negotiate other commitments and values?

**A Deuteronomist redactor meets a recorder of Islamic texts, by Debbie Blue**: I hope they'd have ideas for how the Abrahamic cousins might graciously proceed together.

**American historians on grit, revolutions, and the topsy-turviness of our era, by Cleophus LaRue Jr.**: A master storyteller, David Halberstam had an innate sense of Americans' drive and ambition.

**Gregory Ellison II, Michelle Alexander, and Matthew Desmond share a red vinyl booth, by Barbara Brown Taylor**: I plan not to say a word all night long. I just want to listen.

**Lincoln, Luther, and the prophet Jeremiah lament our pathos-filled world, by Walter Brueggemann**: A confident truth-teller, Jeremiah was also a tortured person who tormented God even as God tormented him.

**Ida B. Wells, James Baldwin, and Octavia Butler imagine a new future, by Brittney Cooper**: None of them minced words about Christian complicity in white supremacy and black suffering.

**Wisdom from Augustine, Calvin, and Bonhoeffer on theological education, by Justo González**: How did your early life and studies prepare you for ministry, and what advice would you have for those who train ministers today?

**Anne Lamott, Ernest Hemingway, and a Gospel writer commiserate about revelation and disclosure, by Karoline Lewis**: I would ask each of them how they negotiate the excruciating vulnerability of writing.

**Marcella Althaus-Reid recounts her dreams from the afterlife, by Mark Jordan**: I would call up friends I've lost and ask them what they're writing now.

**Dostoevsky and Flannery O'Connor help Marcel Proust edit his long sentences, by William Willimon**: Fyodor and Flannery are blessed with excessive God-hauntedness, even if they don't know it.