

Our top 24 of 2024

## Happy new year! Here are the *Century* articles from last year that enjoyed the most online readers.

January 21, 2025



### 1. Mac Loftin: [The new Bonhoeffer movie isn't just bad. It's dangerous.](#)

By egregiously misreading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's moral crisis, it primes viewers for violence.

### 2. Wendell Berry: [Against killing children](#)

We have become a society of people who cannot prevent our own children from being killed in their classrooms—and who do not much mind the killing of other

people's children by weapons of war.

### **3. Brandon Ambrosino: [Jesus among the drag queens](#)**

Those who are offended by the Opening Ceremonies tableau should take another look at their New Testaments.

### **4. Debie Thomas: [Which church is dying?](#)**

The church of empire might be. But I'm not ready to call time of death on the mystical body of Christ.

### **5. Victoria Barnett: [There's no such thing as a Bonhoeffer moment](#)**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer didn't choose to be a martyr. He simply tried, as many others did, to be decent in the face of evil.

### **6. Yolanda Pierce: [Showing up for church when I don't want to](#)**

When I show up, God shows up—although not always in the sermon.

### **7. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer: [Early Christianity, fragment by fragment](#)**

A new published volume of ancient papyri contains sayings, attributed to Jesus, that were previously unknown—including a dialogue with a disciple named Mary.

### **8. Brian Bantum: [Can inclusive churches grow and thrive?](#)**

When my spouse's church became more affirming, the major givers left.

### **9. Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans: [Facing theological ed's existential crisis](#)**

Four schools and the creative paths they're charting

**10. James K. A. Smith: [Wisdom from Augustine in an election year](#)**

Our so-called Christian politics have been captivated by the liturgies of the earthly city rather than the city of God.

**11. Jon Mathieu: [Trending topics: Exvangelical women's memoirs](#)**

Five new memoirs by women who left evangelicalism

**12. Olivia Brodsky and Joshua Stanton: [Ten ways Christians can criticize Israel that aren't antisemitic](#)**

Since October 7, many well-intentioned statements have undercut progressive Christians' moral high ground by invoking antisemitic tropes. It's an avoidable problem.

**13. Reggie Williams: [The tropes that birth the hero](#)**

It is admirable that *Bonhoeffer* endeavors to highlight Black life. But is the Black life of its representation playing in the dark of caricatured Black people?

**14. Elizabeth Palmer interviews Munther Isaac: [Palestinian and Christian in a violent time](#)**

"What does it mean to be church amid these very harsh circumstances?" asks Bethlehem pastor Munther Isaac.

**15. Javier Viera: [Kamala Harris's interfaith identity could help her win the election](#)**

Engaging openly with her Christian, Hindu, and Jewish traditions also models a healthy way to build coalitions for social justice.

**16. Brad East: [Gods who make worlds](#)**

By definition, epic fantasy involves a world with a creator. Tad Williams's *Osten Ard* is the best since Tolkien's *Middle-earth*.

**17. Richard A. Kauffman: [How can a congregation change its culture?](#)**

It helps to focus less on structure and instead envision the church as an organism.

**18. Samuel Wells: [What does it mean to be an inclusive church?](#)**

Being a community means welcoming those with diverse views, not cocooning oneself with like-minded people.

**19. Julian DeShazier: [Why church marketing won't work with Gen Z](#)**

Equity requires people with power giving some of it up. What if we applied this principle to young adult ministry?

**20. Mary Clark Moschella: [Teaching ministry students to ask beautiful questions](#)**

Narrative practice offers an excellent resource for the work of pastoral care.

**21. Dawn Araujo-Hawkins: [The roots of Hebrew Roots](#)**

A small but growing movement of Christians believes fervently that Torah observance is for everyone.

**22. Philip Jenkins: [Were the lost gospels really lost?](#)**

The myth that alternative gospels were suppressed by empire and only recently rediscovered is too good to be true.

**23. Heidi Neumark: [Conspiracies of goodness](#)**

When I fear a dystopian future, I hold on to stories of everyday resistance.

**24. Rebecca Bratten Weiss: [Faith at the expense of freedom](#)**

Catholic integralism is not fascism. But the two have often made common cause.