**Setting Hearts Ablaze:**

***Preaching that Transforms Pulpit and Pew***

*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ~ The Gospel according to Luke*

Preaching plays a pivotal role in raising the church’s sights and summoning it to the place where it might be caught up in God’s transformative activity. Since the first Easter morning, heralds of the good news have announced what they “have seen and heard,” giving testimony to the Risen Saviour set loose from the tomb and raised up as Sovereign of the universe. These witnesses have declared where he is to be found so others might know his presence and see with new eyes, hear with new ears, speak with new voices, and step into the new order instigated by his risen life. Faithful preaching today carries on this ministry for the sake of church and world.

That sounds inspiring, to be sure! However, to many of us, it also sounds unattainable. As Lay Readers, we often feel ill prepared to meet anything close to such a lofty calling.

Yet, our presenter, Jay Koyle, is convinced it is not beyond us to foster this kind of transformative practice for the sake of others, and even ourselves.

The three online sessions being offered will introduce a theological foundation for the spiritual discipline of preaching; consider ongoing practices for shaping us as effective preachers, whether we preach often or only occasionally; suggest practical approaches to sermon preparation; and address the dimensions of actually proclaiming the gospel in a compelling and inspiring manner.

**Thursday, June 4** – We will be introduced to perspectives, practices, methods, and ongoing disciplines that support a fruitful preaching ministry overall. To serve this aim, we will address the commonalities and differences of the four Gospels in the Bible, survey the shape of the Church Year as it impacts upon preaching, and investigate how these considerations may speak to the particular circumstances of our own time.

**Monday, June 8** – We will apply the insights, methods, and strategies from our first session to a particular passage of Scripture to see how they help us engage the biblical text and prepare a sermon to be preached.

**Thursday, June 11** – Now that we have a discipline for engaging scripture throughout the year as preachers, and have prepared a sermon manuscript to carry into the pulpit, we will look to the preaching event itself – concrete examples and advice for delivering the gospel message in a way that is authentic to each of us, yet causes listeners’ hearts to burn within them.

In all of these sessions, we will keep an eye on how we can practice the kind of preaching that transforms both preacher and listener so the church may be a sign, foretaste, and instrument of the Kingdom of God.

Many of you know The Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle through his service in Algoma. He has a long and fruitful history of fostering vital liturgy and preaching, discipleship formation, and missional transformation in parish, diocesan, ecumenical, national, and international contexts. After many years’ experience as a parish priest and a professor on a Faculty of Theology, Jay was invited to our Diocese to serve as Congregational Development Officer. He continues to teach courses at the university level, and recently completed a term as Chair of Faith, Worship and Ministry for the Anglican Church of Canada. Jay holds a doctoral degree in Homiletics and Preaching, and completed graduate work in Liturgical Studies at the University of Notre Dame. In both Canada and the U.S., Jay is acclaimed as an inspirational speaker who brings a terrific sense of humour and an uplifting Christian message.