

Katie G. Cannon: Calling for the Order of the Day

Rev. Dr. Katie G. Cannon was a leading voice in womanist theology; a theology which centers the perspective of African American women in the Christian world.

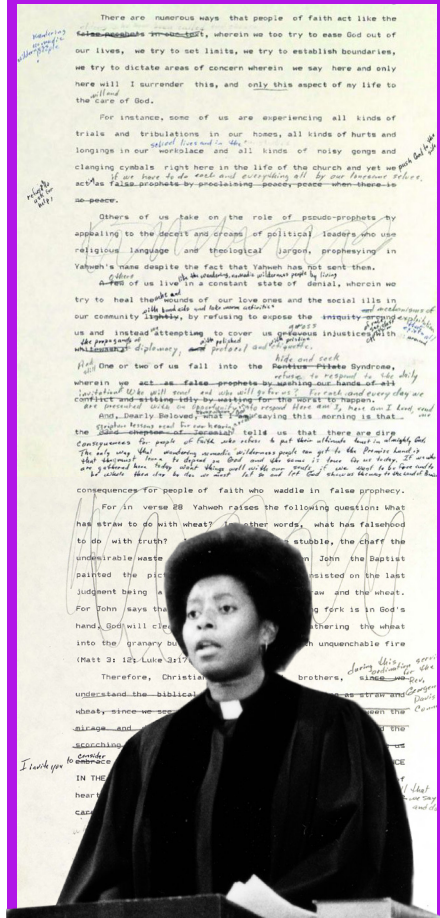
In her sermon, "Calling for the Order of the Day," Cannon uses a womanist perspective to challenge the way Presbyterians view their history. In this sermon she questions how we frame figures in history: how the subject is viewed, who their ancestors are, and what they can teach us.

Cannon carries these questions throughout the sermon as she focuses on the life of African American poet, Phyllis Wheatley, also spelled Phillis. She details Wheatley's life, specifically when Wheatley was tested by several white men to prove her intellect and ability to create literature. Cannon ends this section by boldly asking how the world would change if the words of women like Phyllis Wheatley were taken seriously and studied theologically.

Cannon ends with a call to action "We must study the words of our sisters and brothers who have been silenced, who are absent in our classrooms and in our congregations. To not strive for genuine inclusivity means that our ministries will be unbalanced, that our knowledge will be incomplete, and our worldview will be distorted". Rev. Cannon thus demonstrates through womanist thinking that the centering of African American lives and works ensures a better, more complete future for congregations and the Church.

Learn more about Katie Geneva Cannon at: www.history.pcusa.org/kgc

"Calling for the Order of the Day," sermon. Refers to Numbers 13:25-33, 1999.



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