

Senior Sermons

Each graduating MDiv student is required to preach a Senior Sermon in their final year at CDSP. This sermon may be preached either at CDSP in All Saints Chapel **or** in a congregation with which the student has a meaningful connection (e.g., sending parish, field placement, primary worshiping community). Senior Sermons preached in All Saints Chapel will be scheduled by the Director of Chapel, typically at Tuesday morning eucharist for residential students and at a eucharist during either January intersession or Summer intensive for low-residence students. Students wishing to preach their Senior Sermon in All Saints Chapel must apply to the Director of Chapel prior to (or early in) the academic term during which the student wishes to preach. Specific details about applying to be scheduled to preach in All Saints Chapel will be made available by the Director of Chapel.

The method of evaluating Senior Sermons is the same, regardless of the setting in which the sermon is preached. Prior to the sermon, the student preacher must identify at least three people who will be present when the sermon is preached and who agree to provide structured feedback to the preacher. For sermons preached in All Saints Chapel, one of the people chosen must be a member of the faculty. For sermons preached elsewhere, one of the people must be ordained and a part of the worship community in which the sermon is preached. The questions below must be used to guide the evaluative feedback. The student is responsible for making sure all people providing feedback are familiar with the questions and the process. In the week following the Senior Sermon, the student must meet with the feedback team to receive and discuss the feedback. The student must submit a written 150- to 300-word summary of the evaluative conversation, focusing on what they learned as a result of the feedback. This summary and the signature sheet are submitted to the student's advisor. The student then has a final conversation with the advisor about the Senior Sermon process and learning. This fulfills the Senior Sermon requirement.

Questions for Senior Sermon evaluative feedback:

- What, in your words, was my sermon about?
- In what ways did my sermon engage the appointed collect and scriptures?
- How did my offering deepen your sense of Good News?
- What effect did my sermon have on you?
- How did I convey confidence and establish trust with the congregation?
- Is there one thing I could have done to be a more effective preacher?

CDSP Senior Sermon Evaluation Form

Student name: _____

Date of sermon: _____ Location: _____

Date of evaluation meeting: _____

Evaluation Team:

By signing below, I attest that I participated in this meeting.

(printed name, student)

(signature) (date)

(printed name, evaluator)

(signature) (date)

(printed name, evaluator)

(signature) (date)

(printed name, evaluator)

(signature) (date)

Student: Attach to this form a brief summary of the conversation with your evaluation team and submit the form and attachment to your advisor.

Advisor: After discussing the senior sermon experience with your advisee, submit this form to the Registrar.