The Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching at Yale Divinity School was established April 12, 1871 by a gift of ten thousand dollars from Henry W. Sage, esq. in memory of Lyman Beecher (1775-1863), a member of the Yale College class of 1797. Beecher was a Presbyterian and Congregationalist minister who held pastorates in East Hampton, Long Island, New York, Litchfield, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts. He was also the first President of Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio and served the Second Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati for ten years.

Henry W. Sage, the donor of funds for the establishment of the lectureship, was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church of Brooklyn, N.Y., where Henry Ward Beecher, son of Lyman Beecher, was pastor for forty years. Sage was a prosperous businessman and one of the chief benefactors of Cornell University, where he served on the Board of Trustees. In accordance with the wishes of Mr. Sage, his gift to Yale was devoted by the Yale Corporation to the establishment of a foundation to be designated as, "The Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching" to be filled from time to time, upon appointment of the Corporation, by a minister of the Gospel, of any evangelical denomination who has been markedly successful in the special work of the Christian ministry. With the authorization of the donor, the Corporation voted in May, 1882, “that henceforth the Lyman Beecher lecturer shall be invited to lecture on a branch of pastoral theology or in any other topic appropriate to the work of the Christian ministry.” In December 1893, the donor authorized the Corporation, “if at any time they should deem it desirable to
do so, to appoint a layman instead of a minister to deliver the course of lectures on the Lyman Beecher Foundation."

Biographical sketches of each lecturer and analysis of the lectures from 1871 to 1951 are found in the *The Royalty of the Pulpit*, by Edgar Dewitt Jones (1951). A study of the Lyman Beecher Lectures from the perspective of homiletics is available in *The Heart of the Yale Lectures*, by Batsell B. Baxter (1947).

2023 — Alexander DEEG, Professor of Practical Theology, Universität Leipzig, “Preaching Towards G–d: A Homiletic for Metamodern Times”

1. Messianic Humor and the Slit in the Umbrella: A Fundamental Homiletical Reflection (October 11)
2. ‘Turn It and Turn It’: A Sacramental Hermeneutics Beyond Fundamentalism and Liberalism (October 12)
3. Open-ended Longing: Homiletical Rhetorics in Metamodern Times (October 13)

2022 — Eunjoo KIM, Charles G. Finney Professor in Homiletics, Vanderbilt Divinity School, “Preaching Jesus as a Postcolonial Self”

1. Lecture 1 (October 13)
2. Lecture 2 (October 14)
3. Lecture 3 (October 15)

2021 — Will WILLIMON ’71 M.Div., Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry, Duke Divinity School, “Preachers Dare: Speaking for God”

1. Preaching: An Impossible Possibility (September 14)
2. Preaching: God Getting What God Wants (September 15)
3. The One True Preacher (September 16)
2020 — No lectures.

2019 — Rev. Dr. Leonora Tubbs TISDALE, Clement-Muehl Professor of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School, Emerita, “Women Preachers in the United States”
   1. Women Preachers in the U.S.: A 60 Year Retrospective (October 16)
   2. Reclaiming Herstory: Early Women Preachers in the U.S. (October 17)
   3. Women Preachers and the Transformation of Homiletics (October 18)

   1. Jesus in the Grotto: The Gospel as Grotesque (October 17)
   2. The Thing: Resisting the Weaponized Grotesque (October 18)
   3. Incarnate Word: Preaching and the Carnivalesque Grotesque (October 19)

2017 — Rev. Dr. Allan BOESAK, South African liberation theologian, human rights activist, former Desmond Tutu Chair at CTS, “One More River to Cross – Black Liberation Theology, Black Preaching, and Unanswered Challenges – An Initial Response”
   1. Poisoned Well or Waters of Life – Black Theology, Black Preaching, Scripture and the Quality of Discernment (October 18)
   2. The Birthing Stool, The River Bank, and the Sea Shore – Black Theology, the Women of Exodus, and the Character of Liberation (October 19)
   3. Drinking from the Waters of Meribah – Black Liberation Theology and the Integrity of Radical Engagement (October 20)
2016 — Thomas TROEGE, Lantz Professor Emeritus, Yale Divinity School/Institute of Sacred Music, “The End of Preaching”

1. Scene Is the New Story (October 19)
2. The Soul in Paraphrase, Heart in Pilgrimage (October 20)
3. Something Understood (October 21)

2015 — Alyce M. McKENZIE, George W. and Nell Ayers Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University (SMU), “Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Sermons for Visual Listeners”

1. Scene Is the New Story (October 21)
2. The Preacher as Scene-Maker (October 22)
3. The Scenic Sermon (October 23)


1. Lecture 1 (October 22)
2. Lecture 2 (October 23)
3. Lecture 3 (October 24)


1. UNDONE: Faith as Resistance to Ego (October 23)
2. UNDONE: Faith as Resistance to Orthodoxy (October 24)
3. UNDONE: Faith as Resistance to Empire (October 25)
2012 — Anna Carter FLORENCE, Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Preaching, Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia), “The Word in the Repertory Church”

1. The Script in the Scripture, the Word in Rehearsal: Proclamation in the Repertory Church (October 24)
2. It Could Have Gone Differently: Repertory Readings of Texts of Terror (October 25)
3. Old Texts, New Works: The Repertory Preacher and the Company of Grace (October 26)


1. Dawn of the Dead: Preaching Revelation (October 10)
2. Apocalyptic Vulnerability: Preaching Paul (October 11)
3. Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Mark (October 12)

2010 — Mary Catherine HILKERT, O.P., Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame, “Words of Spirit and Life”

1. Announcing the Things to Come: The Holy Spirit and the Power of Preaching (October 11)
2. The Word of God and the Breath of Life: Preaching from the Book of Nature (October 12)
3. “We Testify to This:” The Promise of Resurrection and the Wisdom of the Cross (October 13)
2009 — Eugene L. LOWRY, William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching Emeritus, Saint Paul School of Theology (Leawood, Kansas), “Keeping Time with the Word: The Sound of the Sermon”

1. Time After Time: The Three Levels of Narrativity (October 12)
2. Encountering the Aristotle Blues: A Jazz Homiletic of Narrative Address and Piano Improvisation (October 13)
3. Recovering the Voice(s) of Orality (October 14)

2008 — Renita J. WEEMS, Biblical Scholar, Author, Minister, “Preaching Against the Grain: Recovering the Voices of Those from the Underside of History”

1. Preaching from the "Underside" of the Book of Jeremiah: Gods, Goddesses, and Matters of Gender (October 13)
2. Preaching from the 'Underside' of the Book of Samuel: David, Jonathan, and Justice (October 14)
3. The Preacher in Paradise Preaching from the 'Underside' of the Gospels: Jesus, Zealots, and Tax Collectors (October 15)


1. The Preacher in Hell (October 8)
2. The Preacher in Purgatory (October 9)
3. The Preacher in Paradise (October 10)

2006 — Thomas G. LONG, Banding Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, “Preaching from Memory to Hope,” published as Preaching from Memory to Hope (2009)
1. **A Likely Story: The Perils and Power of Narrative in Preaching** (October 11)
2. **Social Justice: The Tie That Binds** (October 12)
3. **Global: The Binding Commitment** (October 13)

2005 — **Harry S. STOUT**, Professor of American Christianity, Yale University,  
“*Preaching Morality in America's Civil War*”
1. **And the War Came** (October 10)
2. **The Conduct of the War** (October 11)
3. **The War and the American Civil Religion**  
   (October 12)

2004 — **Otis MOSS, Jr.**, Pastor, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (Cleveland, Ohio),  
“*Preaching as Prophetic Ministry*”
1. **Personal: The Bold Adventure** (October 13)
2. **Social Justice: The Tie That Binds** (October 12)
3. **Global: The Binding Commitment** (October 13)

2003 — **Ellen DAVIS**, Associate Professor of Bible and Practical Theology, Duke Divinity School,  

2002 — **Barrie SHEPHERD**, Minister, First Presbyterian Church (New York City),  
“Poetry, Parables and Preaching or Whatever Happened to Delight?” published as *Whatever Happened to Delight?: Preaching the Gospel in Poetry and Parables* (2006)


1994 — Peggy Brainard WAY (1931-2016), Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, Missouri), “Pastoral Epistemology: Method, Metaphor, Metatheology”


1993 — Thomas L. HOYT, Jr. (1941-2013), Professor of New Testament, Hartford Seminary, “The Church’s Preaching in Pluralistic and Ecumenical Context”


1987 — Horace T. ALLEN Jr., Professor of Worship, Boston University, *“Preaching in a Christian Context-Scripture and Sacrament”*


1984 — Krister STENDHAL (1921-2008), Bishop of the Diocese of Stockholm, *“The Art of Preaching”*


1980 — William Sloane COFFIN, Jr. (1924-2006), Senior Minister, Riverside Church (New York City): “Preaching in the Eighties”


1978 — Fred B. CRADDOCK (1928-2015), Professor of Preaching and New Testament Emeritus, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, *Overhearing the Gospel* (1978)


1971 — No lectures


1967 — **Sidney E. MEAD** (1904-99), Professor of the History of Christianity in America, University of Chicago, “Aspect of Lyman Beecher's Theology”

1964 — Jackson BURNS, “Preaching to the Divided House”


1958 — Joseph SITTLER (1904-87), Professor of Theology, University of Chicago Divinity School, The Ecology of Faith (1961)

1956 — D(aniel) T(hambyrajah) NILES (1908-70), Superintendent Minister, St. Peter's Church (Jaffna, Sri Lanka), *The Preacher's Task and the Stone of Stumbling* (1958)


1952 — Halford E. LUCCOCK (1885-1961), Professor of Homiletics, Yale Divinity School, *Communicating the Gospel* (1954)

1951 — James Stuart STEWART (1896-1990), Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland, *A Faith to Proclaim* (1953)


of the Churches” – Henry M. WRISTON (1889-1978), President, Brown University, “The Preacher as Teacher”


1947 – Henry Knox SHERRILL (1890-1980), Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church, The Church’s Ministry in Our Time (1949)

1946 – Harold Cooke PHILLIPS (1892-1966), Minster, First Baptist Church (Cleveland, Ohio), Bearing Witness to the Truth (1949)

1945 – H(erbert) H(enry) FARMER (1892-1981), Professor of Systematic Theology, Westminster College, Cambridge University, God and Men (1947)

1944 – Reinhold NIEBUHR (1892-1971), Professor, Union Theological Seminary (New York City), “Jesus Christ, the Same Today,” published as Faith and History (1949)

1943 – Garfield Bromley OXNAM (1891-1963), Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, Preaching in a Revolutionary Age (1944)

1942 – Paul SCHERER (1892-1969), Pastor, Holy Trinity Church (New York City), For We Have This Treasure (1944)
1941 – Morgan Phelps NOYES (1891-1972), Minister, Central Presbyterian Church (Montclair, New Jersey), *Preaching the Word of God* (1943)

1940 – Ralph Washington SOCKMAN (1889-1970), Senior Pastor, Christ Church (New York City), *The Highway of God* (1942)


1938 – Charles Clayton MORRISON (1874-1966), *What is Christianity?* (1940)

1936 — No lectures

1935 — John Edgar PARK (1879-1956), President, Wheaton College, The Miracle of Preaching (1936)

1934 — Walter Russell BOWIE (1882-1969), Rector, Grace Church (New York City), The Renewing Gospel (1935)

1933 — Albert E. DAY (1884-1973), Pastor, Mount Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Church (Baltimore, Maryland), Jesus and Human Personality (1934)

1932 — Lawrence P. JACKS (1869-1955), Professor Emeritus, Manchester College, Oxford University, Elemental Religion (1934)

1931 — Ernest Fremont TITTLE (1885-1949), Pastor, First Methodist Church (Evanston, Illinois), Jesus After Nineteen Centuries (1933)

1930 — George A. BUTTRICK (1892-1980), Minister, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York City), Jesus Came Preaching: Christian Preaching in the New Age (1931)

1929 — Francis John McCONNELL (1871-1953), Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, The Prophetic Ministry (1930)

1928 — Edwin DuBose MOUZON (1869-1937), Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Preaching with Authority (1929)

1926 – John Robert Patterson SCLATER (1876-1949), Minister, New North Church (Edinburgh, Scotland), *The Public Worship of God* (1927)

1925 – Raymond CALCINS (1869-1967), Minister, First Congregational Church (Cambridge, Massachusetts), *The Eloquence of the Christian Experience* (1927)


1923 – Harry Emerson FOSDICK (1878-1969), Pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church (New York City), *The Modern Use of the Bible* (1924)

1922 – Charles Reynolds BROWN (1862-1950), Dean, Yale Divinity School, *The Art of Preaching* (1922)

1921 – William P. MERRILL (1867-1954), Pastor, Brick Presbyterian Church (New York City), *The Freedom of the Preacher* (1922)

1920 – Charles D. WILLIAMS (1860-1923), Bishop, Michigan Diocese of the Episcopal Church, *The Prophetic Ministry for Today* (1921)

1919 – Albert Parker FITCH (1877-1944), President, Andover Theological Seminary, *Preaching and Paganism* (1920)
1918 — John KELMAN (1864-1929), Minister, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, *The War and Preaching* (1919)

1917 — Henry Sloane COFFIN (1877-1954), Chairman, Committee of the Board of Home Missions, *In a Day of Social Rebuilding: Lectures on the Ministry of the Church* (1918)

1916 — William Fraser McDOWELL (1858-1937), Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church, *Good Ministers of Jesus Christ* (1917)

1915 — William DeWitt HYDE (1858-1917), President, Bowdoin College, *The Gospel of Good Will* (1917)

1914 — George Wharton PEPPER (1867-1961), Trustee, University of Pennsylvania, *A Voice from the Crowd* (1915)

1913 — Sylvester HORNE (1865-1914), Minister, Kensington Chapel (London), *The Romance of Preaching* (1914)

1912 — Charles Henry PARKHURST (1842-1933), Minister, Madison Square Presbyterian Church (New York City), *The Pulpit and the Pew* (1913)

1911 — John Henry JOWETT (1864-1923), Pastor, Carr's Lane Church (Birmingham, UK), *The Preacher: His Life and Work* (1912)

1910 — Frank W. GUNSAULUS (1856-1921), President, Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology), Chicago, *The Minister and the Spiritual Life* (1911)
1909 — Charles Edward JEFFERSON (1860-1937), Pastor, Broadway Tabernacle (New York City), *The Building of the Church* (1910)

1908 — Hensley HENSON (1863-1947), Canon, Westminster Abbey (London), *The Liberty of Prophesying* (1910)

1907 — William Herbert Perry FAUNCE (1859-1930), President, Brown University, *The Educational Ideal in the Ministry* (1908)

1906 — Peter Taylor FORSYTH (1848-1921), Principal, Hackney College (London), *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind* (1907)

1905 — Charles R. BROWN (1862-1950), Pastor, First Congregational Church (Oakland, California), *The Social Message of the Modern Pulpit* (1906)

1904 — Francis G. PEABODY (1847-1936), Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Harvard Divinity School, *Jesus Christ and the Christian Character* (1905)


1902 — George A. GORDON (1853-1929), Pastor, Second Congregational Church (Greenwich, Connecticut), *Ultimate Conceptions of Faith* (1903)

1901 — Washington GLADDEN (1836-1918), Pastor, First Congregational Church (Columbus, Ohio), *Social Salvation* (1902)
1900 — No lectures

1899 — John BROWN (1830-1922), Pastor, Bunyan’s Chapel (Bedford, Bedfordshire, England), *Puritan Preaching in England* (1900)

1898 — George Adam SMITH (1856-1942), Professor of Old Testament, Free Church College (Glasgow, Scotland), *Modern Criticism and the Old Testament* (1901)

1897 — W(illiam) J(ewett) TUCKER (1839-1926), President, Dartmouth College, *The Making and the Unmaking of a Preacher* (1898)

1896 — John WATSON (Ian Maclaren, 1850-1907), Minister, Sefton Park Presbyterian Church (Liverpool, UK), *The Cure of Souls* (1896)

1895 — Henry VAN DYKE (1852-1933), *The Gospel for an Age of Doubt* (1896)

1894 — David H. GREER (1844-1919), Rector, St. Bartholomew’s Church (New York City), *The Preacher and His Place* (1895)

1893 — No lectures

1892 — Robert F. HORTON (1855-1934), Pastor, Lyndhurst Road Congregational Church (London), *Verbum Dei* (1893)

1891 — A(ndrew) M(artin) FAIRBAIRN (1838-1912), Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford University, *The Place of Christ in Modern Theology* (1893)
1890 — **James STALKER** (1848-1927), Minister, St. Matthew’s (Glasgow, Scotland)

1889 — **A(dolphus) J(ulius) F(rederick) BEHRENDS** (1839-1900), Pastor, Central Congregational Church (Brooklyn, New York), *The Philosophy of Preaching* (1893)

1888 — **J(ohn) A(lbert) BROADUS** (1827-95), President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky), “Preaching and the Ministerial Life”


1886 — **Washington GLADDEN** (1836-1918), Pastor, First Congregational Church (Columbus, Ohio), *Tools and the Man: Property and Industry under the Christian Law* (1893)

1885 — **William M. TAYLOR** (1829-95), Pastor, Broadway Tabernacle (New York City), *The Scottish Pulpit: From the Reformation to the Present Day* (1887)

1884 — **STORRS** (1827-94), “The American Preacher”

1883 — **Nathaniel J. BURTON** (1824-87), Pastor, Fourth Congregational Church (Hartford, Connecticut), *Yale Lectures on Preaching, and Other Writing* (1887); reprinted in *In Pulpit and Parish* (1925)

1882 — No lectures
1881 — Ezekiel G. ROBINSON (1815-94), President, Brown University,
*Lectures on Preaching* (1883)

1880 — DURYEA, George HARRIS, Samuel E. HERRICK, Llewelyn David BEVAN, Nathaniel J. BURTON

1879 — Howard CROSBY (1826-91), Pastor, Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church (Brooklyn, New York), *The Christian Preacher* (1879)

1878 — Matthew SIMPSON (1811-84), American Methodist preacher, *Lectures on Preaching* (1879)

1877 — R(obert) W(illiam) DALE (1829-95), Minister, Carrs Lane Church (Birmingham, UK), *Nine Lectures on Preaching* (1877)

1876 — Phillips BROOKS (1835-93), Rector, Trinity Church (Boston), *Lectures on Preaching* (1877)

1875 — William M. TAYLOR (1829-95), Pastor, Broadway Tabernacle (New York City), *The Ministry of the Word* (1876)

1874 — John HALL (1829-98), Pastor, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York City), *God's Word Through Preaching* (1875)

1873 — Henry Ward BEECHER (1813-87), Congregationalist preacher and social reformer, *Yale Lectures on Preaching. 3rd series* (1874)
1872 — Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), Congregationalist preacher and social reformer, *Yale Lectures on Preaching. 2nd series* (1873)

1871 — Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87), Congregationalist preacher and social reformer, *Yale Lectures on Preaching* (1872)