

Masterpost of Trans Resources for Christians

Compiled by Avery Arden (they/ze, MDiv, More Light Presbyterians board of directors).

Suggest further resources, ask me questions, or reach out just to chat by emailing me at queerlychristian36@gmail.com or avery@mlp.org.

Hire me to facilitate a workshop on these or other topics!

- www.binarybreakingworship.com/workshops

Check out the slides I've used in previous workshops:

- Transforming Our Hearts and Minds: Equipping ourselves not only to accept and protect, but affirm and celebrate transgender persons":
 Transforming Hearts & Minds presentation.pptx
- "Transforming Scripture: How Biblical Trans & Intersex Narratives Enrich All of Us"
 Transforming Scripture Presentation.pptx
- Transforming Our Spaces:  Transforming Our Spaces presentation.pptx
- Responding to Anti-Trans Legislation & Rhetoric:
 Anti-Trans Legislation presentation.pptx

Find me elsewhere online: <https://linktr.ee/queerlychristian>


For **non-faith-specific transgender resources**, such as trans 101 & pronoun practice, see my other masterpost:  Basic Trans Education (not faith-specific)

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Why Christians should support trans folks, and how to do so

- **My class slides:**
 - The “why” of support: [P Transforming Hearts & Minds presentation.pptx](#)
 - The “how” to support: [P Transforming Our Spaces presentation.pptx](#)
 - Rebuttals to anti-trans rhetoric: [P Anti-Trans Legislation presentation.pptx](#)
- **Video: “Why you’re called to Allyship”:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnlujYr689o&list=PLwWfCs7vnwdC1wblAmH3_klm0fE7oN9tE&index=35
- <https://www.transmissionministry.com/family-resources> - lots of amazing resources for family members who want to accept their LGBTQ+ loved one!
- [OtherWise Academy is an up-and-coming online resource](#) that aims to provide educational opportunities for those providing spiritual care to Transgender, Intersex, Non-Binary, Two Spirit, and OtherWise People.
- Another article on welcoming trans people in church:
<https://www.queertheology.com/faith-justice-transgender-christian/>
- “Becoming an Ally” -
<http://canyonwalkerconnections.com/becoming-christian-allies-for-the-lgbt-community/>
- <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/> - various resources
- [Example Bathroom Proposal for a church or other faith community](#): If you want to advocate for trans inclusive bathrooms in your community, feel free to use this proposal I

wrote up for my own seminary. You may want to tweak some parts to make it specific to your context.

Supporting Trans / Gender Diverse Youth in particular

- [*Daring Adventures: Helping Gender Diverse Kids and Their Families Thrive* by Rachel A. Cornwell](#)

“Parents should not have to choose between their child and their faith. They do not have to reject their child or the children of others because their faith tradition has taught them that being non-conforming in one's gender identity is not natural or "God's design." Reverend Cornwell shows that no one need give up their faith in order to love and protect their child. She insists that accepting children of all gender identities is not only compatible with faith but essential for all faith communities of all religions and denominations.”

- [*Queerfully and Wonderfully Made: A Guide for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens*](#) edited by Leigh Finke — this book is made for teens, but I think that anyone who wants an easy-to-read overview of lots of LGBTQ+ basics could greatly benefit from this book.

Content includes **advice** for when you're questioning, pondering whether to come out, fearing discrimination / rejection from loved ones, dealing with anxiety and depression; unpacking anti-LGBT church stuff & presenting affirming theology (including “queer icons of Christianity”); tips for “queering your community”; and a whole bunch of other stuff!

In this book, “You'll get insight and support from an amazing group of LGBTQ+ professionals, as well as **testimonies** from young adult queer Christians who've recently been exactly where you are. You'll walk away with a lot of answers, prepared with **tools** to help. But most importantly, you'll hear the good news: God loves you exactly as you are.”

- [*Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting & Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth*](#) — the companion text to the previous book!

“A handbook for pastors, youth workers, church leaders, educators, and other adults in Christian settings, the book provides answers to the most pressing questions about sexuality, gender, mental health, safe sex, and more.”

- [*Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry*](#) by Ross Murray

“The book first helps congregation leaders and parents examine the values of the congregation and youth group. It focuses on keeping young people, including LGBTQ

youth, safe and helping them feel respected and see themselves as beloved children of God. The book also provides a how-to manual for LGBTQ-inclusive youth ministry, sharing the best procedures and practices from the fifteen-plus years of The Naming Project's ministry, including its ongoing summer camp."

Resources specifically for faith leaders, chaplains, etc.

- [TransAction: A Curriculum for Churches and Religious Institutions](#)
- [Out in Scripture](#): an excellent resource for sermon planning or Bible study material — commentaries on lectionary readings through an LGBTQ lens
- **This list of resources is for pastors and other ministry professionals who want to be LGBTQA+ affirming** - great stuff on spiritual care for LGBT youth, on theology, on transforming your spaces, and more:
<https://www.transmissionministry.com/ministry-resources>
 - My top recommendation for **youth pastors** is *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made* and its companion text, *Welcoming and Affirming*
- A masterpost specifically for **chaplains**:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wTec8iz58ADaBOHLQqTWPBg-0AraftaNp6WyBAkl1Pr8/edit?usp=sharing>

Finding Community

In-person community:

- <https://www.gaychurch.org/> is a database of affirming Christian churches -- you can search for churches in the Louisville area specifically, and also filter by denomination.
 - Unfortunately, some churches are better at fully affirming gay persons than other members of the LGBTQA+ community. This website is newer and thus has fewer churches recorded than gaychurch's database, but is great for when you're looking for an explicitly trans-inclusive church:
<https://www.churchclarity.org/score-definitions>
 - Explore a specific church's website for hints about their views on, for instance, trans and nonbinary persons. Here's a checklist of things to look for:
<https://www.queertheology.com/churches-lgbt-affirming-welcoming-safe/>

Online community:

- **Transmission Ministry Collective:** “an online community of transgender and gender-expansive Christians committed to growing our faith, supporting each other, and healing the world.”
 - This organization includes virtual bible studies and discussion groups, as well as other resources both for trans Christians and their allies
- [Our Bible App](#): “a progressive community...celebrating our many diversities and faith capacities” that includes devotionals and chatrooms
- [Queer Theology offers](#) resources, classes, and more for both LGBTQA+ persons and their parents / others in their lives
- [Online support groups](#) for parents and other family members of LGBTQA+ kids
- **Masterlist** of more online communities for LGBT/queer Christians:
<http://queergrace.com/communities/>

Scripture and Theology

- <https://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/post/154298268441/queerly-christian-fa-q> - this is my own page of frequently asked questions, from dealing with guilt and shame to interpreting scripture and discovering an affirming God.

Biblical Interpretation

- My webpage exploring interpretive frameworks for scripture that take the Bible “seriously” without taking it “literally” —
<https://www.blessedarethebinarybreakers.com/framework-for-scripture>
- You also might find Austen Hartke’s “Are You Taking the Bible Seriously?” vid helpful in describing why and how one might read the Bible *not* as God’s literal word:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6gv5M4VmM4&list=PLwWfCs7vnwdC1wblAmH3_kIm0fE7oN9tE&index=63

Deconstructing Harmful Views

[Bad Theology Kills: Undoing Toxic Belief and Reclaiming Your Spiritual Authority by Kevin Garcia](#)

- “[Kevin Garcia] believed that God could never love them because they were queer, leading to a **deadly shame** that nearly took Kevin’s life. Kevin felt trapped by fear. Fear of losing their community, their family, and even their connection to God.

“That is until Kevin changed their mind, finally hearing the voice of the Spirit calling them to believe something better, and to step in to truly abundant life. **Through personal experience, classical theological devices, and a fair bit of profanity**, Kevin dives into some of the most common toxic belief patterns that are killing our communities, showing you how to undo them, and **how to create new, better theology** to lead you back to your spiritual authority.”

The “**clobber claims**” or “**clobber texts**” are the small number of verses in the Bible that are most frequently used against LGBTQA+ persons to claim that God does not affirm them or their relationships. Here are some resources that deconstruct these claims:

- <http://hoperemainsonline.com/>
- <https://www.gaychurch.org/homosexuality-and-the-bible/the-bible-christianity-and-homosexuality/>

I have a “rebuttals” tag on tumblr that contains posts responding to common arguments against queer Christians: <http://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/tagged/rebuttals>

- “This is just your cross to bear” / “You need to deny yourself”
<http://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/post/165487206901/what-are-your-thoughts-on-the-verse-luke-923>
<http://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/post/166433089486/a-queer-seminarian-i-was-happy-to-be-part-of>
- “God doesn’t make mistakes”
<http://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/post/161835578541/if-god-makes-us-the-way-we-all-are-with-no>
- “Your body is a temple — God doesn’t want you to change it!”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPyLn0YxBlc&index=43&list=PLwWfCs7vnwdC1wblAmH3_klm0fE7oN9tE


Explaining why conversion therapy / reparative therapy is harmful, as are **ex-gay** movements and any other attempts to change rather than accept LGBTQA+ persons from a religious standpoint:

- www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy
- www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/gay-and-lesbian-well-being/201107/is-it-possible-pray-the-gay-away
- www.Beyondexgay.com
- www.nytimes.com/2019/02/05/well/mind/religion-trauma-lgbt-gay-depression-anxiety.html
- www.thetrevorproject.org/trvr_support_center/lgbtq-religion/#sm.0000mc0kev1i5edwYir2jffgmxyvk

Affirming Theologies & Scripture Readings

Deconstructing how the Bible does not *condemn* LGBT folks is only the first step -- we can also see how scripture *affirms* us!

My class slides: "Transforming Scripture: How Biblical Trans & Intersex Narratives Enrich All of Us"

 Transforming Scripture Presentation.pptx

Online sources of affirming theology & biblical studies

- [Austen Hartke's Transgender & Christian YouTube Series](#) - Hartke's videos offer brief, biblically astute introductions to a variety of topics around being trans and Christian. Here, I've written summaries of the videos I find most helpful for communities seeking to make real positive changes.
- [Queer Grace Encyclopedia](#) collects articles that respond to common questions around being queer & Christian
- [My "TransChristianity" site](#) that explores biblical stories of gender diversity, plus gender diversity throughout Christian history
- [QSpirit](#) also explores queerness in the Bible & throughout Christian history

Books of trans theology & scripture

- [**OtherWise Christian: A Guidebook for Transgender Liberation** by Chris Paige](#) — This book attempts to make academic stuff more accessible and easier to read (along with updating older texts' language).

It “**reviews 25 years of transgender-affirming biblical scholarship**“ to assert “that the Bible shows us story after story of OtherWise-gendered people being used by God to further the kingdom. Yet, we have been bamboozled by a restrictive gender ideology that is aligned with empire, white supremacy and Christian supremacy. Jesus and our biblical ancestors invite us to join a **gender-full resistance!**”

- [**Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians** by Austen Hartke](#) — an even easier read than the previous book, theology is interspersed with witness:

“Weaving **biblical examples of gender nonconformity** and transformation with the stories and voices of **contemporary** trans Christians, Hartke’s approach is both pastoral and prophetic as he addresses harmful Christian theology that has been used to further marginalize and exclude trans people.

“Hartke’s scriptural basis for a trans-affirming theology **offers a healing balm for queer and trans people** who have ever questioned that God loves them based on ‘what it says in the Bible,’ while challenging progressive Christian communities to **center trans perspectives** in their efforts to become truly open and affirming.”

- (About the two books above: pick Paige’s book if you want *aaaall* the trans theology and don’t mind a slightly more academic feel; pick Hartke’s book if you want a briefer overview of trans theology with more storytelling.)
- [**The Soul of the Stranger: Reading the Torah from a Transgender Perspective** by Joy Ladin](#) — author is a Jewish trans woman.
 - This is my top rec for anyone who wants to do a really deep dive on figures like Adam and Eve, Jacob and Joseph, and God Themself. Language is fairly academic, but not too dense.
 - “Reading some of the best-known Torah stories through the lens of transgender experience, Joy Ladin ...shows how the Torah...speaks both to practical transgender concerns, such as marginalization, and to the challenges of living without a body or social role that renders one intelligible to others—challenges that can help us understand a God who defies all human categories. These creative, evocative readings transform our understanding of the Torah’s portrayals of God, humanity, and relationships between them.”

- [*Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity*](#) by Rev. Elizabeth Edman — the author is a lesbian Episcopal priest.

“Edman posits that Christianity, at its scriptural core, incessantly challenges its adherents to **rupture false binaries**, to “queer” lines that pit people against one another. Thus, Edman asserts that Christianity, far from being hostile to queer people, **is itself inherently queer**. ...Lively and impassioned, Edman proposes that queer experience be **celebrated** as inherently **valuable**, ethically virtuous, and illuminating the sacred.”

- [*Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*](#) by Pamela Lightsey — this one’s more academic. This book “uses the tenor of the 2014 national protests that emerged as a response to excessive police force against Black people to frame the book as following the discursive tradition of **liberation theologies** broadly speaking and womanist theology specifically.

“Using a womanist methodological approach, Pamela R. Lightsey helps readers explore the **impact of oppression against Black LBTQ women** while introducing them to the emergent intellectual movement known as queer theology.”

[You can watch a YouTube interview with Pamela Lightsey about this book here.](#)

- Justin Tanis’s 2003 book *Transgender*
 - PDF of chapter on “**Gender as Calling**”:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q3TUIx-fv-jTkASjm9PIQr8emSf4kDp7/view?usp=sharing>
 - PDF of chapter on “Gender Variance in Scripture”:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rx1qYrflE_25nO2VBcEtrDteh78VNXLa/view?usp=sharing

Podcasts with trans theology

- [The Bible Bash podcast](#): each episode takes a queer look at a passage of the Bible
- [Blessed Are the Binary Breakers](#): my own podcast! I interview trans persons of various faith backgrounds, or share my own trans theology / Bible readings

Spiritual Resources by / for trans Christians

Memoirs & Anthologies of LGBTQA+ Perspectives

- [***Trans-Forming Proclamation: A Transgender Theology of Daring Existence*** by Liam Hooper](#) — The memoir-mixed-with-theology of a trans man who graduated from Christian seminary and converted to **Judaism**.

“Hooper demonstrates his love of both the Hebrew language and the wisdom of nature itself, bouncing back and forth between the insights gleaned from his beloved Grandma Daught and sacred texts dear to both Jewish and Christian traditions.”

- [***Does Jesus Really Love Me?*** by Jeff Chu](#) — this book incorporates a sense of humor as it covers serious topics. It’s “part memoir and part investigative analysis that explores the explosive and confusing **intersection** of faith, politics, and sexuality in Christian America.

From Brooklyn to Nashville to California, from Westboro Baptist Church...to the pioneering Episcopalian bishop Mary Glasspool...Chu captures spiritual snapshots of Christian America at a remarkable moment, when **tensions** between both sides in the culture wars have rarely been higher.

- [***OtherWise Christian 2: Stories of Resistance***](#) edited by Chris Paige — an anthology of personal reflections, drawing on both classic articles and new content from contemporary trans, nonbinary, intersex, and otherwise gender nonconforming authors

Poetry collections by trans writers that explore God’s love & solidarity with us

- [***Queering Lent*** by Slats Toole](#) — poems by a nonbinary Christian minister exploring their journey through religious trauma into God’s queer embrace. You can find some of the [poems from this collection in my #slats tag](#).
- [***The Backwater Sermons*** by Jay Hulme](#) — poems by a trans “poet, performer, educator, and speaker with a love of ancient church buildings that led him to a

sudden and life-changing encounter with the God he had never believed in.”

- [**The Kin\(g\)dom in the Rubble**](#) by Avery Arden (previously Avery Smith) — (oh gee, that’s me!)

“This collection of 38 poems envisions a world turned on its head by the **incoming reign of a queer God** – a reign so close we inhale it with every breath, yet so distant it might well take a billion years more to fully immerse us. These poems **wrestle with God, humanity, and the Bible from a queer and trans perspective**, drawing from the author’s Catholic and Presbyterian backgrounds to do so.

“Scripture and science, nature and personal experience mingle together in the text as bitterness melts into expectant joy and **wounds yield unimaginable blessings.**”

You can find some of the poems included in this book [on my website here](#).

- [**Tree by SJ Blasko**](#) — Tree is “a collection of poetry that explores what it means to be in **community**, in **faith**, and in **love**.”

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