The Magdalene in the Reformation: A Book Talk Featuring the Rev’d Dr. Margaret Arnold

Monday, February 11, 2018, 12-1pm
Paige Crane Room

Free lunch from Guru the Caterer, a local Indian restaurant

Prostitue, apostle, evangelist—the conversion of Mary Magdalene from sinner to saint is one of the Christian tradition’s most compelling stories, and one of the most controversial. The identity of the woman—or, more likely, women—represented by this iconic figure has been the subject of dispute since the Church’s earliest days. Much less appreciated is the critical role the Magdalene played in remaking modern Christianity.

In a vivid recreation of the Catholic and Protestant cultures that emerged in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, *The Magdalene in the Reformation* reveals that the Magdalene inspired a devoted following among those eager to find new ways to relate to God and the Church. In popular piety, liturgy, and preaching, as well as in education and the arts, the Magdalene tradition provided both Catholics and Protestants with the flexibility to address the growing need for reform. Margaret Arnold shows that as the medieval separation between clergy and laity weakened, the Magdalene represented a new kind of discipleship for men and women and offered alternative paths for practicing a Christian life.

The Reverend Dr. Margaret Arnold is an Episcopal Priest currently serving as Rector of St. Stephen’s in Cohasset, MA. Formerly, she was Associate Rector of Grace Church in Medford. She has her PhD in Religious Studies from Boston University. Originally from Nova Scotia, she currently lives in Brookline with her husband, Christopher Brown, a professor of Church History at Boston University, and together they have seven children, ages 21 to 8. Maggie loves running in all weather, making art, cooking, reading everything from *Harry Potter* to medieval sermons, and watching *The Sound of Music* every year.