

# FINDING YOUR OWN VOICE



## An educational workshop for lay people

Are you struggling to find your own theological voice in the face of ancient creeds and dominant Church traditions? Do you find it difficult to express your faith because you have doubts and questions about certain doctrines and are unsure of what thinking underpins them? In your role in the church, how are you able to engage with its theological foundations?

If this describes you, you're not on your own. This special workshop with internationally recognised speaker Dr Val Webb is an ideal chance to discover your own voice within your unique context and experience, and to network with other lay people and local leaders.

You'll be able to find your own voice as Val explores the big issues at the heart of theological thought in the church and how they have changed and been reinterpreted down the centuries as knowledge and context changed. This evolution invites us to consider the shapes of faith for the twenty-first century.

Val's workshop - **Finding your Own Voice** – draws from her most recent book, *Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology* (Morning Star Publications, 2015). This really is a superb opportunity to engage with the theological aspects of our everyday lives. Just as importantly, there will be plenty of time to meet other lay people and local leaders and to share your own questions, answers and evolving stories.

**Register today and take the opportunity to find your own voice as an active, engaged member of your congregation, presbytery or community, and let Val guide you on the path to thinking and acting from a contextualised theological base.**

**LIVE STREAMING  
NOW AVAILABLE  
\$20 per person**

#### WHERE:

Rooms G2 & G3,  
Centre for Theology & Ministry  
29 College Cres, Parkville 3052

#### WHEN:

Monday, 26 October 2015  
7pm to 9.30pm, refreshments  
from 6.30pm & afterwards

#### COST:

\$25, or bring some colleagues &  
friends and buy five tickets for  
\$100

\$20, live streaming

#### REGISTER ONLINE @:

[https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/  
valwebb2015](https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/valwebb2015)

Registrations close:

Monday, 19 October, 2015

#### MORE INFORMATION:

[info@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:info@ctm.uca.edu.au);  
9340 8815

[ctm.uca.edu.au](http://ctm.uca.edu.au)



CENTRE FOR  
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## KEY ISSUES TO BE EXPLORED...

Val is an experienced theologian and teacher, and the workshop will explore these key issues in particular:

- Theologically literate lay people are vital for a twenty-first century church, as are lay people who are asking questions and finding their own voice.
- Theology has been codified in creeds and professionalised as a specialist academic field, but everyday Christians have to do their own theological exploration, enabled by but not limited to such resources.
- Living with faith is a theological act, and acting without thinking may be harmful, even dangerous.
- Exploring the nature and role of contextual theology through the sweep of history, working on your own local context and issues, finding common ground with others finding their own voice and creating theologically hospitable spaces for all.



## ABOUT THE SPEAKER...

Val Webb – BA, BSc (Hons), PhD (Theology)

Val (Skerman) Webb's professional career spans microbiology, business, public relations, writing, art and theology. She grew up in Brisbane, and has lived and worked in England, the US and Australia.

During the 1980s Val was Superintendent of Communications and Public Relations for The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane. For her work there, she was named an Emeritus Fellow. Val also held leadership positions in the Uniting Church in Australia during that time, both locally and nationally, including the inaugural Chair of Queensland's

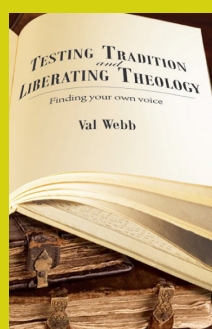
Commission of Education and Communication, responsible for theological and lay education and Synod publications and communication.

Val began religious studies part time at the University of Queensland in 1982, in response to her personal faith questions, completing her PhD in Theology at Luther Seminary, St Paul, Minnesota in 1996. Since then, Val has taught religious studies at the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College in the US and as adjunct faculty in Australia at Whitley College, Melbourne, Murdoch University, Perth and United Theological College, Sydney. She has written eleven books, including *In Defence of Doubt*; *An Invitation to Adventure*; *Florence Nightingale: The making of a radical theologian*; and *Stepping out with the Sacred: Human attempts to engage the Divine*. Her 2007 book *Like Catching Water in a Net: Human attempts to describe the Divine* won the 'general religion' category of the USA Best books 2007 Awards.

Val and her husband finally returned to Australia in 2003 after a total of almost 30 years in the US. They now live in Mudgee, NSW, where Val continues to write, teach and lead workshops around Australia and overseas.

## ABOUT THE BOOK...

There has never been one truth, despite what people claim. Theological ideas have waxed and waned through history, taking conflicting turns with changing leaders, worldviews and political forces. This fast-paced, lay-friendly book, backed by serious, inquisitive scholarship, follows this maze, shining a spotlight into dark corners and dusty shelves to observe ideas silenced and others declared eternal.... *Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology* offers readers permission to think for themselves.



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