



GOD & CAESAR

IN TODAY'S GLOBALIZED WORLD

Thursday, March 31st • 7:00-9:00pm • Grace Chapel Auditorium, Lexington MA



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In a day when civility and humility are desperately needed in public discourse, three congregations from Lexington, Massachusetts – Grace Chapel, Temple Isaiah, and St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church – are joining together to model a new approach to discussing the complex and often contentious issues surrounding religion and politics.

The question that will guide the evening's discussion is "How do people of faith address and respond to the issue of religion and politics in today's internationalized, globalized world?" We want to discuss questions which touch on both the domestic and international dimensions of this subject, including church-state relations, inter-religious relations and dialogue, the challenge of religion and world affairs since 9/11, the crucible of the Middle East, religious liberty, and more.

We have gathered an expert panel which represents different religious traditions and different political persuasions to help our three congregations gain a deeper and more practical understanding of these subjects.

The event will be from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Thursday night, March 31, 2011 and will take place in the auditorium of Grace Chapel, 59 Worthen Road, Lexington, Massachusetts. We look forward to attendees from the three congregations and the community-at-large, as we explore these important issues together.

The panelists include:

Rev. Dr. J. Bryan Hehir – Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life, Harvard Kennedy School; Secretary for Health Care and Social Services, Archdiocese of Boston

Imam Dr. Talal Eid – Founder and Director of Religious Affairs, Islamic Institute of Boston; Commissioner, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Washington, DC

Mr. Judd Birdsall – U.S. State Department, Office of International Religious Freedom and Special Assistant to the Director of Policy Planning; co-convener of the Religion & Global Affairs Working Group

The Honorable Jackie Weatherspoon – New Hampshire House of Representatives, 1996-2002 (Minority House Whip); U.S. State Department, facilitated the last phases of the Dayton Peace Agreement and prepared Estonia and Lithuania for entry into European Union; UN/UNDP advisor coordinating elections in Malawi and Nigeria.

Mr. Rob Leikind – American Jewish Committee, Boston Director. Former lawyer with the Anti-Defamation League. Former Senior VP of Hebrew College.

Dr. James C. (Jim) Wallace (Moderator) – Fellow and Senior Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Boston University; former clergyman and senior political advisor in Canada for 25 years.