Progressive Christianity Amid U.S. Polarizing Realities

April 19, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET

with Xochitl Alvizo
California State University, Northridge

This talk will present a segment of progressive Christian communities that intentionally seek to disrupt and counter the harmful elements of heterosexism, racism, and dogmatism embedded in its inherited theologies, systems, and structures. This emerging Christianity occurs as a result of experiences of harm and trauma, particularly at the hands of white evangelicalism and systemic sexual abuse within an array of Christian denominations. Social movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo have challenged Christianity in the U.S. toward greater left-leaning activism that center the voices of people of color, women, queer, and trans persons. The talk will capture the emerging elements of progressive Christianity actively taking shape amidst these social movements and the current issues polarizing the political and religious landscape of the United States. It will also provide recommendations for religious communities seeking to implement a more active social and politically engaged Christianity that counters the harmful impact of its more radically conservative expressions.

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Xochitl Alvizo teaches “Women and Religion” and “the Philosophy of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality” at California State University, Northridge. Her research areas include feminist and queer theologies, congregational studies, ecclesiology, and the emerging church. She is co-founder of Feminism and Religion (www.feminismandreligion.com). She lives in Los Angeles, CA where she was also born and raised.