



# “You’re Such a Martyr!”

## The History and Controversy of Persecution in the Early Church with Candida Moss

Thursday, March 21, 2013, 7:30 pm

According to cherished church tradition, early Christians were uniquely and systematically persecuted by a brutal Roman Empire. Vast numbers of believers were thrown to the lions or routinely tortured or burned alive. In spite of these horrors, so the story goes, these heroes of the early church chose to die rather than renounce their faith in God. Such stories form part of the teaching of the church to the present day, inspiring some to acts of like courage in the face of modern hardships

This lecture addresses the true history of persecution in the early church, how this history includes exaggerations and forgeries that eventually became part of the rhetoric of the church and the legacy of this history.

**CANDIDA MOSS** has published four books and more than twenty-five articles and essays on various aspects of Biblical and early Christian literature, history, and thought. Her first book, *The Other Christs: Imitating Jesus in Ancient Christian Ideologies of Martyrdom* was awarded the 2011 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise. She is co-director, Forum on Religion and Ecology, Yale University. Her latest book, *The Myth of Persecution: How Early Christians Invented a Story of Martyrdom*, is now available from HarperOne.

Tickets are \$10-15; available online at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org) or by phone at (202) 537-2228.



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