



# The Art of Gentleness

a radical alternative in an age of outrage

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 11 November
<b>Time</b>	8pm AEDT Access Livestream with private link
<b>RSVP</b>	Up to the time of the lecture
<b>Tickets</b>	Available at <a href="http://smithlecture.org">smithlecture.org</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:peter.kaldor@thirdspace.org.au">peter.kaldor@thirdspace.org.au</a>



**Dr Michael Jensen** (DPhil, Oxford University) is a theologian, author, pastor, and social commentator. He is currently the Rector of St Mark's Anglican Church in Darling Point, Sydney. He teaches theology at the Sydney College of Divinity. He

is the author of several books including *Martyrdom and Identity: The Self on Trial, Is Forgiveness Really Free?* and *My God, My God: Is it Possible to Believe Anymore?* His writing appears often in the major daily newspapers, and since 2015, he appears regularly on ABC's *The Drum*. Michael is married to Catherine and they have four children.

We live in an increasingly brutal, dog-eat-dog world. We may sentimentalise gentleness but that's because we despise it. Our heroes are the ambitious, the ruthless, and the bold. The social order and the public square have become territories to be conquered – peopled by our ideological enemies that need to be vanquished. Our newsfeeds are designed to make us anxious and angry. In our feelings of frustration and powerlessness, feelings greatly amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic, we look to power, strength, and dominance as the virtues that will reassure us.

Is there another way? Does gentleness perhaps provide more guidance for us than we think? Gentleness is at the heart of the ethical teaching of Jesus – but does he have an answer to his modern critics, like Ayn Rand and Friedrich Nietzsche? In *The Art of Gentleness*, Dr Michael Jensen will show that the virtue of gentleness is exactly what we need for today's outraged and divided world – in business, education, and in politics.

## About The Smith Lecture



The death of Bruce Smith of leukemia in 2001 deprived Australia of one of its most erudite and inspiring theologians, public speakers and teachers. A prominent Anglican spokesman on ethics and religion during the late 1960s and early '70s, Smith was active in the public media, taught classics, philosophy and theology, and had a lifelong interest in poetry, painting and music.

Bruce Smith left a legacy of engagement with society in its political, ethical and cultural dimensions. He believed in the broad significance of the Christian message of reconciliation with God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Smith Lecture programme intends to develop further this work of engagement. It provides an opportunity for an eminent Christian public figure to present his or her perspective on a subject relevant to the life of our nation.