

## BOOKS

# Author Eliza Griswold's Topeka lecture will focus on engaging in conversations in a divided world

**Brianna Childers** Topeka Capital-Journal

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Eliza Griswold, a Pulitzer prize winner and author of "Amity and Prosperity," will speak at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 at Grace Cathedral. 701 S.W. 8th Ave.

The presentation is part of the Episcopal Church's biennial Tocher lecture, which features authors who address theological concerns in a practice and applied way.

The event is in conjunction with the upcoming Kansas Book Festival. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Griswold's presentation, titled "Words for a Divided World," will focus on exploring how and whether Americans of faith can engage in conversations in a world that is politically and religiously divided.

"Eliza Griswold is always reporting from the front lines on vital issues, whether traveling into Afghanistan or interviewing leaders in the Southern Baptist Church about their stance on race," said Tim Bascom, Kansas Book Festival's executive director. "Not only has she reported on the fault line between Islam and Christianity, traveling into war zones, but she has translated a whole collection of outlawed love poems by Afghan women, and right now she is busy helping endangered refugees out of Afghanistan.

"If you come to hear her, you will get a front row seat on what is happening with politics and religion not only in the U.S. but around the world."

**More:** Tickets for Topeka native and magician Greg Gleason's magic show go on sale Monday

Griswold has also authored "The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam" and "If Men, Then."

This year's Kansas Book Festival will take place Sept. 18 at Washburn University's Mabee Library.

The festival will feature 24 author presentations and panel discussions. A variety of local musicians and children's storytellers will be present.

Rebekah Taussig, author of "Sitting Pretty," will kick off the festival with a lecture Sept. 17.

**More:** Coffee, church and conversation come together at Topeka's Café Quetzal, which focuses on freedom and inclusivity