

9/11 in the Century archives

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

September 9, 2011

We recently asked five *Century* contributors to reflect on the 9/11 attacks and the decade that followed; their responses are [here](#). *Century* subscribers can also read the following highlights from our coverage in the weeks following the attacks:

- The editors [respond to the attacks](#): "We want a word from God. When, before our eyes, hijacked airplanes crash into buildings, and the towers of the World Trade Center plunge to the ground snuffing out thousands of lives, when evil suddenly and irrevocably transcends the limits of what we have assumed is possible, we desperately seek to know what God intends for us."
- Five eyewitnesses to the disaster: [John Allen](#) of Trinity Wall Street, [Linda Bloom](#) of the United Methodist News Service, [Stephen Paul Bouman](#) of the ELCA, [Jon Walton](#) of First Presbyterian in New York, and Archbishop of Canterbury [Rowan Williams](#), who was in New York on September 11.
- Greg Jones describes a [prayer service](#) held that night at Duke Divinity: "As events unfolded through the day, it became clear to our divinity school community that we needed to [as Simone Weil puts it] 'go on wanting to love.'"
- Barbara Brown Taylor on [religious dialogue and common humanity](#): "By now we are all too familiar not only with the major terrorist attacks on the World Trade towers and the Pentagon, but also with the smaller terrorist attacks on Muslims, Sikhs and Arab-Americans in the weeks since then. . . . The events of the past two weeks have shown that many of us are mistaken about one another's identities--especially our religious identities--and that our ignorance is a luxury we can no longer afford."

- Don Shriver on the attacks and [forgiveness](#): "We should be devoting a lot of time and energy to coping with the complexities of forgiveness as they relate to our immediate and long-term relation to the world of Islam. But in the midst of this crisis, we can also talk about forgiveness prematurely."
- Miroslav Volf on [evildoers](#): "'Doesn't calling a person 'evil' make us go after him with a vengeance, seeking to eliminate or at least neutralize him?' my friend protests. 'It all too often does,' I agree. But it should not. God's love is broad enough to include evildoers, the worst of them."
- [Jean Bethke Elshtain](#), [Glen Stassen](#), [James Turner Johnson](#) and [Martin Cook](#) consider terrorism and just war theory.
- Charles Kimball examines the roots of [Islamic militancy](#), Scott Appleby considers [the terrorists' point of view](#) and Trudy Bush examines their [timing](#).