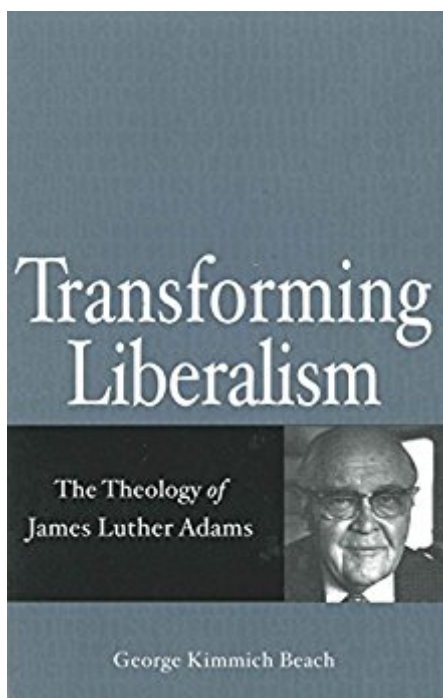


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Transforming Liberalism: The Theology Of James Luther Adams



Synopsis

"James Luther Adams, one of the most beloved teachers, raconteurs, scholars and editors of the 20th century, wrote in small units rather than full-length books. No one has mastered this vast body of material or grasped its inner coherence better than Beach, who not only edited several earlier volumes of Adams's works but has now compiled the main themes into this compelling, coherent, readable and delightfully integrated whole. It is a magnificent achievement, done with nuance, art and accuracy. I would not be surprised to see this volume trigger a resurgence of liberalism in theology and social thought."

—Max L. Stackhouse, DeVries Professor of Theology and Public Life and Director of Kuyper Center for Public Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary

"Adams was the most transforming figure in 20th-century Unitarian Universalism. Having previously edited Adams's essays, Beach masterfully gives us the master himself—the smiling prophet of liberal religion."

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"Beach leads the reader on a discursive, personal journey through the mind and faith of James Luther Adams. Rich in parable and paradox, Adams's thought remains vivid, his cautions instructive and his spiritual and ethical commitment worthy of abiding emulation."

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Until now, we have glimpsed James Luther Adams's vision through his parables and short writings. Here is the book that many have sought in his life-work—a systematic yet nuanced and entirely readable theology for a new religious liberalism.

George Kimmich Beach is the editor of three volumes of essays by James Luther Adams: *The Prophethood of All Believers* (Beacon Press, 1986), *An Examined Faith: Social Context and Religious Commitment* (Beacon Press, 1991) and *The Essential James Luther Adams: Selected Essays and Addresses* (Skinner House Books, 1998). Beach has published essays on Adams in *The American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, *Faith and Freedom* (Great Britain) and *The Unitarian Universalist Christian*. His video, "JLA at Home," features Adams discussing his life and work with laypersons from Arlington, Virginia, in 1988.

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Customer Reviews

Beach offers a thorough look at J.L. Adams' work spanning the boundaries between analysis, reminiscence and apology. The prose is wonderfully rich and the portrait of Adams emerging from the pages depicts a man committed to social justice and honesty with amazing religious depth. If I had been aware of Adams in religiously formative years, I might have a substantially different world view today!

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