

Christian Wiman

EDUCATION

1984–1988 BA, English Literature
Washington and Lee University

APPOINTMENTS

**2020—present Clement-Muehl Professor of Communication Arts
Yale Institute of Sacred Music
Yale Divinity School**

2017—2020 Professor of the Practice of Religion and Literature
Yale Institute of Sacred Music
Yale Divinity School

2013—2017 Senior Lecturer in Religion and Literature
Yale Institute of Sacred Music
Yale Divinity School

2003–2013 Editor
Poetry magazine

2002–2003 Visiting Assistant Professor of English
Northwestern University

1999–2002 Visiting Scholar
Lynchburg College

1995–1998 Jones Lecturer in Poetry
Stanford University

HONORS AND AWARDS

**Lifetime Achievement Award, Conference on Christianity and Literature,
2020**

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Lakeland University, 2018

Inducted into Texas Institute of Letters, 2018

Best American Poetry, 2018

Writers' League of Texas Prize, 2017

Best American Poetry, 2017

Pushcart Prize, 2017

Center for Faith and Work Fellowship, 2016

Philosophical Society of Texas Award of Merit for Poetry, 2016

Aiken-Taylor Prize for Modern Poetry, 2016

Balcones Poetry Prize, 2015
Whitney Humanities Fellow, Yale University, 2015-16
Finalist, National Books Critics Circle Award, 2015
Once in the West named one of ten best books of 2014 by *New York Times Book Review*
General Editorial Excellence, American Society of Magazine Editors, 2013 (for 2012)
My Bright Abyss named a best non-fiction book by *Wall Street Journal*, 2013
My Bright Abyss named a best religion book by *Washington Post*, 2013
My Bright Abyss named a best religion book by *Publishers Weekly*, 2013
My Bright Abyss named a best religion book by *Christian Century*, 2013
Guggenheim Fellow, Poetry, 2012–2013
Finalist, Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award, 2012
Ambassador Book Award from the English Speaking Union, 2011
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, North Central College, 2011
General Editorial Excellence, American Society of Magazine Editors, 2010
Best Podcast, American Society of Magazine Editors, 2010
Pushcart Prize, 2010
Pushcart Prize, 2009
Lannan Residency, 2008
Pushcart Prize, 2003
Gerald Freund Grant from the Whiting Foundation, 2003
MacDowell Residency, 2002
Nicholas Roerich Prize for Poetry, 1998
Ruth Lilly Fellowship, 1995
Dobie-Paisano Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 1995
Wallace Stegner Fellowship, 1992–1994

PUBLICATIONS

Books

***No Omen but Awe: Fifty Entries Against Despair.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Spring 2022.**

***Survival Is a Style.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, February 2020.**

He Held Radical Light: The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, September 2018.

Hammer Is the Prayer: Selected Poems. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, November 2016.

Mijn Heldere Afgrond: Overpeinzingen van een modern gelovige (translated by Willem Jan Otten). Utrecht: Brandaan, March 2016.

Once in the West. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014.

My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013.

Stolen Air: Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam. New York: Ecco, 2012.

Every Riven Thing. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Ambition and Survival: Becoming a Poet. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2007.

Hard Night. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2005.

The Long Home. Ashland, OR: Story Line Press, 1998; 2nd ed. Copper Canyon Press, 2007.

Edited Volumes

Home: 100 Poems. New Haven: Yale University Press, October 2021

Selected Prose, by Kay Ryan. New York: Grove, April 2020.

Joy: 100 Poems. New Haven: Yale University Press, October 2017.

And Souls Are Candles: A Grace Farms Anthology. San Francisco: Chelsea Publishing, 2015. (Limited Edition)

The Open Door: 100 Poems from 100 Years of Poetry Magazine. Edited with Don Share. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Periodicals: Prose (partial)

The American Scholar

“Still Wilderness,” Fall 2017

“I Will Love You in the Summertime,” Spring 2016

“Kill the Creature,” Spring 2015

“Mortify Our Wolves,” Winter 2013

“Hive of Nerves,” Summer 2010

“My Bright Abyss,” Winter 2009

“Love Bade Me Welcome,” Summer 2007

The Atlantic Monthly

“Influential Poets,” December 2006.

Chicago Tribune

“Remember Me, When You Slice Your Bread,” (editorial page), December 2004

The Christian Century

“Five Best Books of Poetry for 2015,” December 2015

“Don Quixote in Paris,” 2015

- “Embrace and Abandonment: A Pastor and Poet Talk About God,” with
Matt Fitzgerald, May, 2013
- “Dear Oblivion,” August 2010
- “God Is Not Beyond,” 2009
- Commonweal*
- “Issues of Blood”, March 2018
- “Dying Into Life,” May 2012
- Harper’s*
- “The Cancer Chair,” February 2020**
- “The Limit,” Spring 2002 (reprint)
- Harvard Divinity Bulletin*
- “By Love We Are Led to God,” Spring 2012
- “O Thou Mastering Light,” Spring/Summer 2009
- “Notes on Poetry and Religion,” Winter 2007
- Hudson Review*
- “A New Mode of Damnation?: Hart Crane,” Summer 2000
- Huffington Post*
- “By Love We Are Led To God,” Spring 2012
- Image*
- “Varieties of Quiet,” Summer 2012
- “God’s Truth Is Life,” July 2009
- Ireland Review*
- “Call it Love,” Fall 2014
- The New Criterion*
- “Free of Our Humbug: Basil Bunting,” April 2004
- New York Times Book Review*
- “On Lars Petter Sveen, October 2018
- “The Poet of Light: On Richard Wilbur,” January 2018
- “Apostle,” April 2016
- “The Sugar Mile: Poet at the Bar,” (on Glyn Maxwell), September 2005
- “James Merrill: Collected Prose,” November 2004
- New York Times Magazine*
- “Letter of Recommendation: The Gym,” March 2020**
- Poetry*
- “The Drift of the World,” June 2020**
- “Mastery and Mystery: 21 Ways to Read a Century,” October 2012
- “Introduction: W. S. Di Piero,” June 2012
- “Introduction: David Ferry,” June 2011
- “Introduction: Eleanor Ross Taylor,” June 2010
- “Grace,” March 2010
- “To Let You Pass,” October 2009
- “In Praise of Rareness,” December 2006
- “No Prose,” June 2006
- “In the Flux That Abolishes Me,” March 2006
- “Editorial,” (on reviewing), September 2005
- “Eight Takes,” July 2005

- "The View From Here," January 2005
 "Antagonisms," October 2004
 "Poetry in a Visual Culture," January 2004
 "Editorial," (on principles and policy), November 2003
 "Fugitive Pieces (II)," June 2003
 "Fugitive Pieces (I)," May 2001
 "A Piece of Prose," August 1999
 "An Idea of Order," January 1999
 "Finishes: On Ambition and Survival," January 1997
- Poetry International*
- "Secret Hearing: On Translating Osip Mandelstam," Fall 2012
- Poetry Review* (England)
- "God's Truth Is Life," Fall 2009
- Sewanee Review*
- "The Druid Stone: Thomas Hardy," Autumn 2006
 "Fourteen Fragments In Lieu of a Review," September 2001
 "The Created and the Made: Janet Lewis and the Uses of Convention,"
 January 2001
 "Fragments of a Hammer: James Wright," Winter 1998
 "So Fierce and Sweet the Song: George Mackay Brown," Spring 1997
- Southwest Review*
- "Filthy Lucre," Fall 2002
- Spoon River Poetry Review*, Spring 2016
- "A Note on Brett Foster," Fall 2016
- Time.com*
- "The Rock and the Rot," Spring 2016
- Tin House*
- "Not Even Wrong," Winter 2015
- Threepenny Review*
- "Pure Honey, Pure Gall: Edna St. Vincent Millay," Winter 2003
 "On Being Nowhere," Fall 2003
 "The Limit," Fall 2001
 "Milton in Guatemala," Winter 2000
 "Possessed by Life: On Dostoevsky," Fall 1997
- Wall Street Journal*
- A Primer for Forgetting, June 22, 2019.***
Ted Hughes: An Unauthorized Life, October 10, 2015.
Strange Glory: Dietrich Bonhoeffer May 2014.
The Letters of Robert Frost, Vol. 1, February 2014.
 "Five Best Books of Accidental Theology," March 2013

Periodicals: Poetry (partial)

32 Poems

- "Razing a Tower," Spring/Summer 2014
- Agenda* (England)

"Assembly," Fall 2015
 "Drive, 1982," Fall 2015
America
 "Poem Ending With a Sentence by Jacques Maritain," January 2017
The American Scholar
 "Spirits," Summer 2018
 "The Priest at the Pool Party," Summer 2018
 "Joy," Summer 2018
 "A McDonald's in Middle America," Summer 2018
 "Land's End," Summer 2018
 "All Good Conductors," Summer 2010
The Arkansas International
 "Doing Lines at the Cocktail Party," Fall 2017
The Atlantic Monthly
 "My Stop Is Grand," October 2014
 "Lord Is Not a Word," May 2010
 "From a Window," July 2008
Cellpoems
 "So Much a Poet He Despises Poetry," April 2010
The Christian Century
 "Whatever the Birds Were," January 2017
 "A Break in the Storm," April 2011
 "Gone for the Day, She Is the Day," October 2010
 "One Time," February 2009
 "For D.," September 2008
 "Small Prayer in a Hard Wind," August 2008
Chronicle of Higher Education
 "Not Altogether Gone," (web feature, introduction by Lisa Russ Sparr),
 April 2011
Commonweal
"The Eft," September 2019
 "Eight Distillations," January 2017
 "Prayer," August 2014
 "Memory's Mercies," August 2014
 "Witness," April 2014
The Economy Magazine
 "Sungone Noon," [Issue 4]
Design Observer
 "Five Houses Down," February 2010
First Things
 "Then I Slept Into a Terror World," April 2010
Image
 "The Preacher Addresses the Seminarians," Issue 81
 "Self-Portrait With Preacher, Pain, and Snow," Issue 81
 "Love's Last," Issue 81
 "The Mole," Issue 66

The Hopkins Review

- "Something of the Sky," Fall 2019**
- "Fragment of a Lost Scripture," Fall 2019**
- "Dancing With the *Ding an Sich*," Fall 2019**
- "Sundays at Smilow," Spring 2017
- "Three Ages," Spring 2017
- "To Eat the Awful While You Starve Your Awe," Spring 2017
- "Less," Summer 2014
- "A Poem for Edward Thomas," Summer 2014
- "Music Maybe," Summer 2014

Kenyon Review

- "Our Whole Reward Is Seeing," Fall 2020**

LitHub

- "Something of the Sky," February 2020**

The Nation

- "Antiquity Too," May 2014

The New Criterion

- "A Light Store in the Bowery," January 2020**
- "Summer River Rosie Dam," January 2020**
- "And Someone Wrote it Down," January 2020**
- "More Like the Stars," April 2014
- "Native," June 2013
- "Neverness," June 2013
- "Sitting Down to Breakfast Alone," April 2009
- "Late Fragment," April 2009
- "Dream of a Dead Friend," April 2009

New England Review

- "Darkcharms," 2009

New Ohio Review

- "Hermitage," Spring 2010
- "Given a God More Playful," Spring 2010

The New Republic

- "Dust Devil," September 2010
- "Hammer Is the Prayer," August 2010

The New Yorker

- "All You Shining Stars," October 2019**
- "I Don't Want to Be a Spice Store," April 2019**
- "Eating Grapes Downward," May 2018
- "Five Houses Down," June 2009
- "After the Diagnosis," March 2007

Occasional Religion (website)

- "To Grasp at the Mercury Minnows Are," July 2011

Orion

- "When the Time's Toxins," November 2010

Poetry

- "Even Bees Know What Zero Is," January 2020**

“All My Friends Are Finding New Beliefs,” January 2020

“Mild Dry Lines: An Exchange,” January 2020

“The Parable of Perfect Silence,” December 2018

Plough

“We Pray God to Be Free of God,” Winter 2018

“Meaning Is Not Man’s Gift to Reality,” Winter 2018

“Little Religion,” Winter 2015

Poetry International

“Every Riven Thing,” 2010

“This Mind of Dying,” 2010

“From a Window,” 2010

“Sitting Down to Breakfast Alone,” 2010

“One Time,” 2010

“All Good Conductors,” 2010

“The River,” 2010

“It Takes Particular Clicks,” 2010

“Late Fragment,” 2010

“And I Said to My Soul, Be Loud,” 2010

Sewanee Review

“How Many Days,” Summer 2020

“Good Lord the Light,” Winter 2017

“Prelude,” Winter 2016

“Envoi,” Winter 2016

“Never Heaven,” Winter 2016

“Somewhere This Side of Sanity,” Winter 2016

“A Dusk,” Winter 2016

“Drive, 1982,” Winter 2016

“Flight,” Winter 2016

Slate

“Little Killing Ditty,” November 2012

“Bombs Rock Cairo,” April 2009

“It Takes Particular Clicks,” February 2009

Terrain

“Club,” Spring 2017

“After a Lecture,” December 2017

“Little Flames,” December 2017

The Rumpus

“Sungone Noon,” April 2012

Spiritus

“Deep Space in the B Minor Mass,” 2018

“Flight,” 2018

Subtropics

“Ah, Ego,” Winter 2018

“A Sketch,” Winter 2018

“Middle Age,” Winter 2018

Tikkun

"Wartime Train," July 2012
Yale ISM Review
"Assembly," Fall 2014
"[If I could write a cry]," Fall 2014

Works in Anthologies

- "The Onlookers" and "Reading Pascal in Quarantine," *Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic*, Knopf. 2020
- "The Limit," *Advanced Creative Non-fiction: A Writers Guide and Anthology*, Bloomsbury. 2021
- "Assembly," *Best American Poetry 2018*, Scribner, 2018
- "I Will Love You in the Summertime," *Pushcart Prize Anthology 2018*, W. W. Norton. 2018
- "Assembly," *Rebellion, Resistance, Life*, Knopf. 2017
- "Prelude," *Best American Poetry 2017*, Scribner. 2017
- "Kill the Creature," *The Orison Anthology*, Orison Books. 2016.
- "The Necklace," *If Bees Are Few: A Hive of Bee Poems*, University of Minnesota Press. 2016.
- "The Rock and the Rot," *Questions Jesus Asked*. New York, NY: Time Warner Books. 2015
- "Once at a Reading," *Because You Asked*. Sandpoint, Idaho: Lost Horse Press. 2015
- "My Bright Abyss," *Norton Anthology of World Religions*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2014.
- "Mastery and Mystery: Twenty-One Ways to Read a Century." In *The Open Door: 100 Poems, 100 Years of Poetry Magazine*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- "Every Riven Thing." In *Poems of Devotion: An Anthology of Recent Poets*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.
- "Love Bade Me Welcome." In *Shadow and Light: Literature and The Life of Faith*, 3rd ed. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 2012.
- "Nimble Believing." In *A God in the House: Poets Talk About Faith*. North Adams, MA: Tupelo Press, 2012.
- "One Time." In *Poems of Devotion: An Anthology of Recent Poets*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.
- "My Bright Abyss." In *Best Spiritual Writing*. New York: Penguin, 2011.
- "Clearing." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "Dream of a Dead Friend." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "From a Window." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "God's Truth Is Life." In *Bearing the Mystery: Twenty Years of Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

- "Hard Night." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "I Had a Lover's Quarrel With The World: Robert Frost." In *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.
- "Late Fragment." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "Love Bade Me Welcome." In *Pushcart Prize Anthology*. Wainscott, NY: Pushcart Press, 2009.
- "Sitting Down to Breakfast Alone." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "What I Know." In *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- "Love Bade Me Welcome." In *Best American Spiritual Writing*. New York: Mariner Books, 2008.
- "Reading Herodotus." In *New Voices: Contemporary Poetry From The United States*. Belfast: Irish Pages, 2008.
- "A Field in Scurry County." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "Clearing." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "The Funeral." In *Longman Anthology of Poetry*. London: Longman, 2006.
- "In Lakeview Cemetery." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "Reading Herodotus." In *Longman Anthology of Poetry*. London: Longman, 2006.
- "Old Song, Long Night." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "Outer Banks (II)." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "What I Know." In *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poetry from 1951–1977*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.
- "The Limit." In *What Makes a Man: 22 Writers Imagine the Future*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2004.
- "A Piece of Prose." In *Twentieth-Century American Poetics: Poets on the Art of Poetry*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003.
- "The Limit." In *Pushcart Prize Anthology*. Wainscott, NY: Pushcart Press, 2003.
- "What I Know." In *Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003.