



## ***Exploring Islam: Past and Present***

**Wednesday, October 26**

**7:00 – 8:30pm**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Saints Hall (the back of the building)  
330 N. Hubbards Lane, 40207**

**Professor Bradley Bowman  
Professor John McLeod  
and Dr. Saleem Seyal, MD**

Many Americans regard Islam as fundamentally intolerant. Sometimes, the news seems to confirm this view, when we hear of ISIS genocide against Yazidis, Boko Haram attacks on Nigerian Christians, or the murder of a French priest in his church. But throughout history, Muslims have coexisted with followers of other religions with relative ease and mutual respect. Come hear three scholars explore this theme.

Professor Bradley Bowman will discuss Christian-Muslim relations in the early years of Islam, when diverse Christian populations flourished under Muslim rule. Contrary to the view that Christianity and Islam are inherently adversarial, this magnanimous inter-confessional relationship set a profound tone for religious tolerance in the early Middle Ages.

Professor John McLeod will look at three examples of religious interaction in India: in the Delhi sultanate in the fourteenth century, the Mughal empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth, and the state of Hyderabad in the early twentieth. In all of these, largely non-Muslim populations flourished under Islamic kings, with lasting religious and cultural results.

Dr. Saleem Seyal will examine “Contributions of Islam to Western Civilization” describing a hitherto ignored and lost epoch in the medieval centuries when Muslim scientific and intellectual achievement were the envy of the world. In many centers of learning, from Damascus to Baghdad, Bokhara, Cairo and Muslim Spain (Al-Andalus) many advancements in mathematics, algebra, algorithms, medicine and astronomy were made. This “Golden Age of Islam” laid the cornerstone of the European Renaissance, Enlightenment and Modern Society.

**Free and open to all.**

**Salaam Network** is an interfaith group of educators, peacemakers, writers, and supporters from a wide range of backgrounds. It grew out of a Muslim-led Brainstorming Meeting held at Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion on May 1, that was attended by a large number of local religious leaders and peace-and-justice activists. Salaam Network is committed to building bridges of understanding and harmony from a knowledge-based foundation.

**Facebook: Salaam Network Louisville  
Information: SalaamNetworkLouisville@gmail.com**

