

THE REVEREND PETER J. GOMES

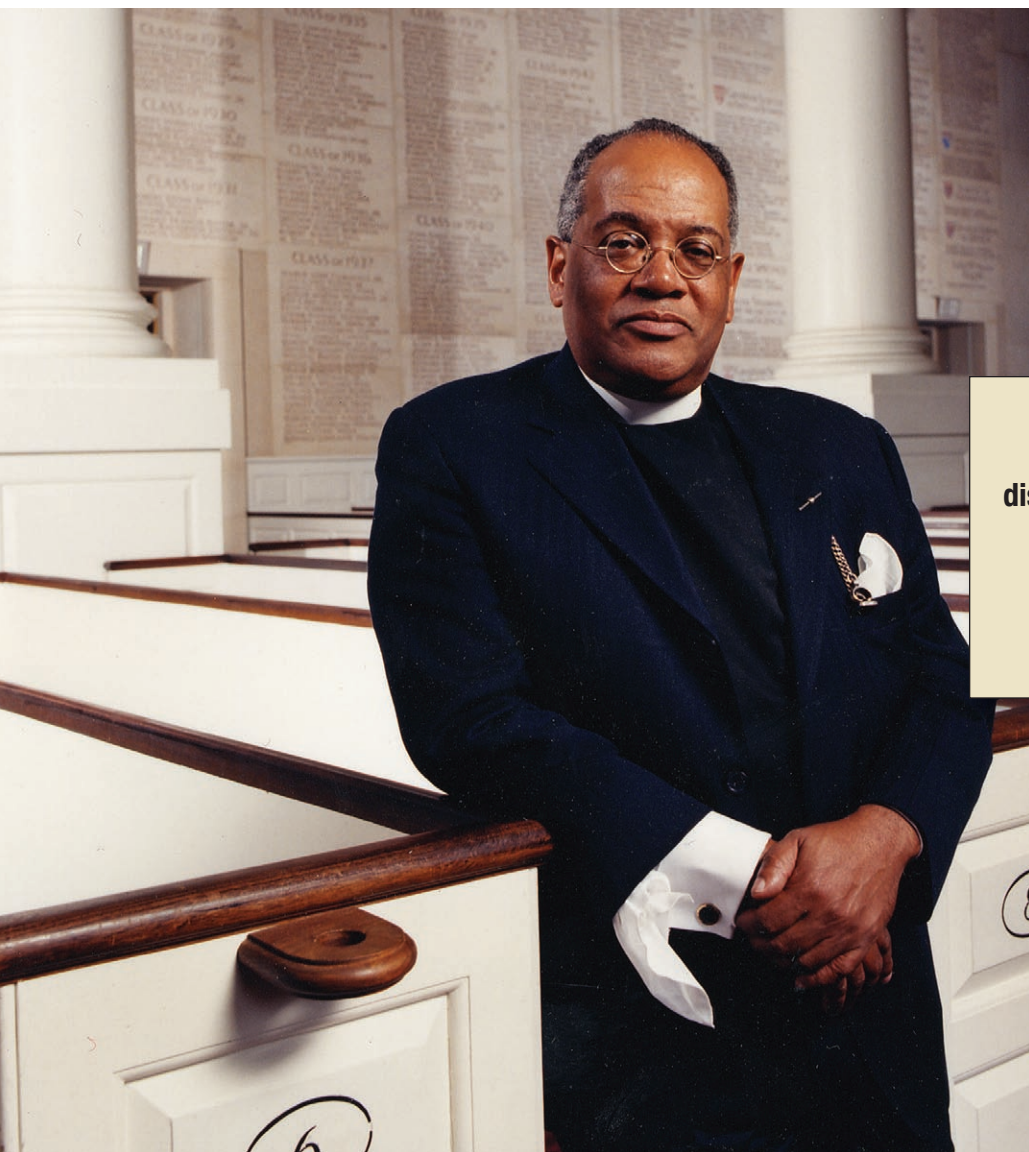
b. May 22, 1942

“There can be no light without the darkness out of which it shines.”

The Rev. Peter J. Gomes offers a look at religion from a distinctive perspective. A Baptist minister and professor at Harvard University, Mr. Gomes argues that the Bible is neither anti-Semitic, anti-feminist nor anti-gay.

In 1991, *Peninsula*, a conservative Harvard magazine, published a 56-page issue largely critical of homosexuality. Mr. Gomes denounced the magazine and came out publicly at Harvard’s Memorial Church. A small group called Concerned Christians at Harvard immediately called for his resignation, but Mr. Gomes received support from the Harvard administration.

Renowned for both his teaching and his preaching, Mr. Gomes is the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard and the Pusey Minister at Harvard’s Memorial Church. A graduate of Bates College in 1965 and Harvard Divinity School in 1968, he also studied at the University of Cambridge, where he is an Honorary Fellow and where the Gomes Lectureship was established in his honor. Mr. Gomes holds 33 honorary degrees. *Religion and American Life* named him Clergy of the Year in 1998, and he won the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Award from Harvard in 2001. Mr. Gomes offered prayers at the inaugurations of Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.



The Rev. Peter J. Gomes is a widely published author. Of the 10 volumes of sermons and numerous articles and papers he has written, two of his works—“The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart” (1996) and “Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living” (1998)—were *New York Times* and national best sellers.

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