“God as a Poet: The Poetry of the Psalms”
Read, Pray, Sing (Psalms Conference Breakout Session)
Saturday, 4/13: 9:45am-10:45am; 11:00am-12:00pm

Summary
It is easy to forget that the Psalms are 150 separate poems. They are creative, emotional, lyrical poems designed in the mind of God. The poetry is easy to overlook because we read the Psalms in English translations. This breakout session will help us to rediscover the poetry of the Psalms. We will examine the use of descriptive imagery, helpful comparisons, and some uniquely Hebrew characteristics as well. Just as we read and interpret English poems differently from, say, essays or personal letters, we should also read and interpret the Psalms according to their style.

I. Psalms as Poetry

II. Imagery and Metaphor
A. Metaphor (comparison):

B. Imagery:

III. Parallelism
A. Biblical poetry is not primarily based on rhyme or meter, as it often is in English.

B. Hebrew parallelism: usually two consecutive, brief lines that express related ideas

C. Aspects of parallelism