

The Freedom of Worship Medal

**On this, the fifth day of October 2019, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom of Worship Medal is awarded to:
Krista Tippett**

America has always prided itself as a home for people of faith. In the nation's earliest days, religious minorities and persecuted communities sought refuge from across the seas. They fought hard to protect their newfound freedom of worship, and to enshrine that freedom in our laws and culture.

Today, that freedom is in jeopardy. Hate groups have sought to weaponize religion as a cultural wedge. They've tried to normalize and brand that hatred as a political identity. Anti-Semitism is on the rise, worshippers in Christian churches are increasingly under siege, and politicians at the highest levels advocate for outright Muslim bans.

Freedom of worship must mean freedom for all. And few have done more to broaden the tent of theology and spirituality than our laureate, Krista Tippett.

To quote President Obama, "on the air and in print," you avoid "easy answers, embracing complexity and inviting people of all faiths, no faith, and every background to join the conversation."¹

In your On Being Project, you provide a public forum for spiritual inquiry, and you help us to nurture our inner lives. You ask us to pause and consider questions that all too often go unasked: What does it mean to be human? How do we want to live? Who will we be to each other?²

You approach these big questions with an open mind and an eagerness to listen. You gather people across the gulfs that divide us in everyday life—from race to politics to religion. And—one conversation at a time—you offer a clear vision of a freer and more compassionate world.

For bringing public theology into the new millennium and for boldly envisioning more loving ways of living, I am honored to present you with the 2019 Freedom of Worship Medal.

¹ Yale Divinity School article <https://divinity.yale.edu/news/president-obama-presents-krista-tippett-94-mdiv-national-humanities-medal>

² On Being - Our Story <https://onbeing.org/our-story/>