

**The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt University  
The Spring Semester of the 2022-2023 Academic Year  
Victor Judge, assistant dean for academic affairs and lecturer in literature and religion  
Vanderbilt University Divinity School  
the reading for our fourth class on Thursday morning, April 13, 2023**

---

**Finding God in All Creation:  
The Sacramental Poetics of Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J**



"The Windhover:

*To Christ our Lord"*

I caught this morning morning's minion, king-  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding  
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird, - the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion  
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

~Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.



