



For as long as we've been human, we've been religious. But why?

[Listen to the Divinity School trailer](#)

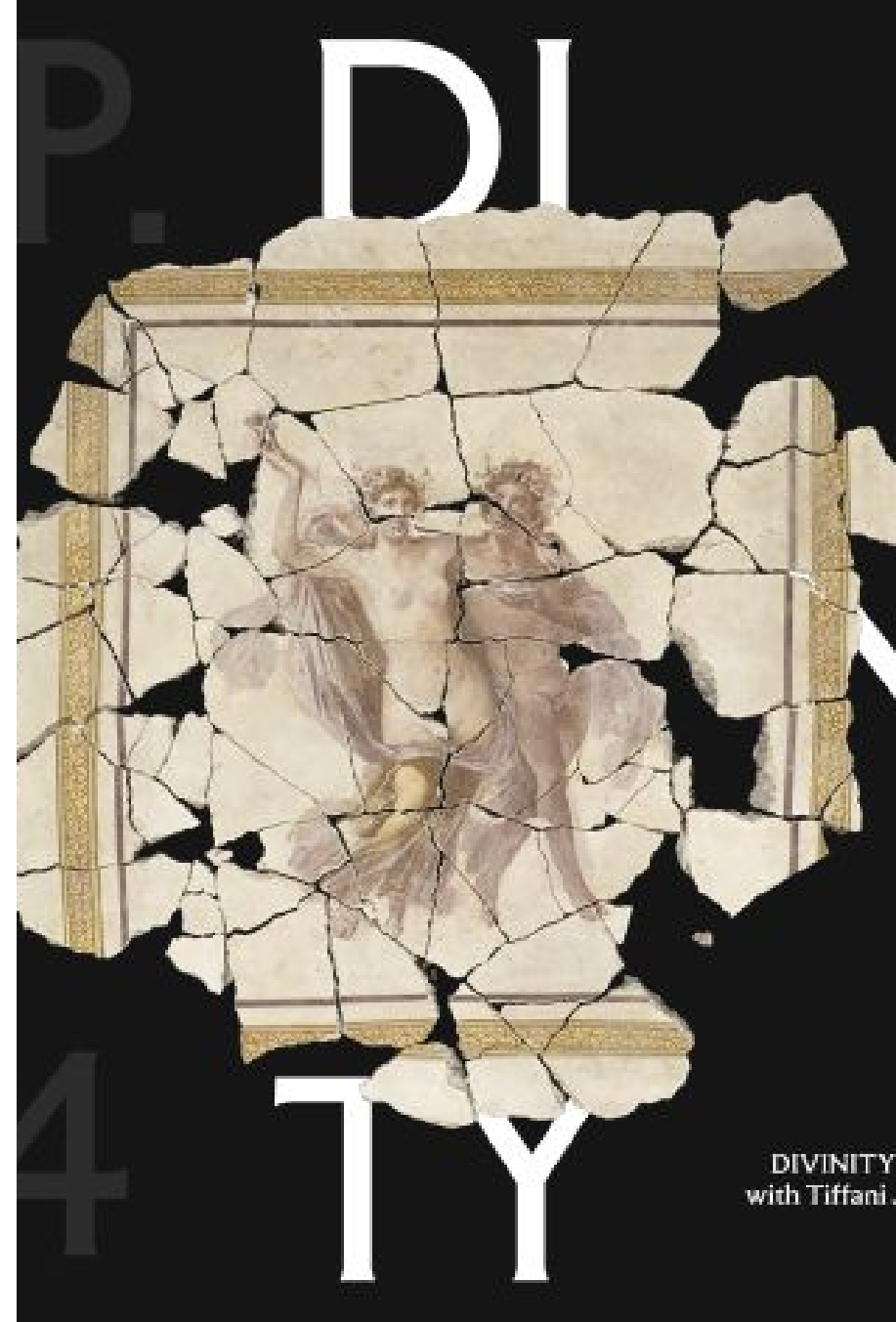


Divinity School finds shared humanity in unfamiliar religious lives.

Why do people pray? Fast? Confess their sins in a booth? The religious instincts of others seem strange—yet beneath them are longings we all recognize. Divinity School explores this phenomenon.

Intellectual honesty and wonder co-exist.

We're genuinely curious about the extraordinary religious worlds people create, and what it feels like to inhabit them. We enter with an open mind, then bring scholarship, deep reporting and our own searching questions to bear on what we discover.



DIVINITY
with Tiffani.

Surprising, rigorous, deeply human stories.

Irresistible questions

Each 45–60 minute episode begins with a mystery we can't shake: "Is enlightenment real?" "Do psychede"

Immersive reporting

Hosts Tiff and Sue dive deep into the question through field reporting, intimate interviews, and archival tape.

Exceptional scholarship

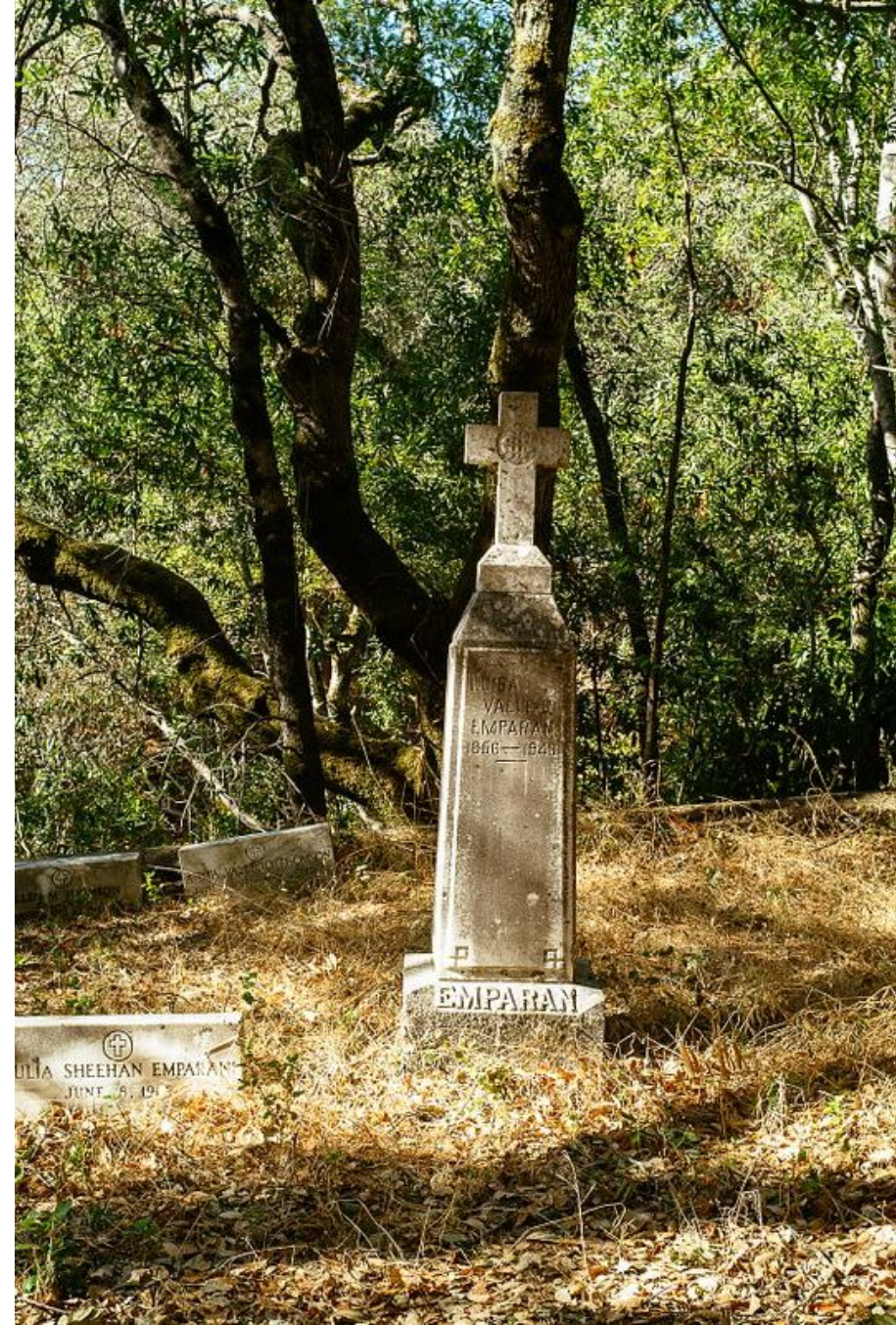
Leading thinkers complicate our assumptions and connect each episode to a larger body of knowledge.

A richer picture

What emerges is a more human understanding of religious life—in all its beauty and strangeness. Think *Parts Unknown* or *Dolly Parton's America*—for religion.

Season One: Why we seek the sacred

Throughout history, people have sought out gods, rituals, transcendence, and spiritual community. Season One dives into contemporary religious expression to understand what this reveals about being human.



Sample episodes

Holy Rollers: Why do people speak in tongues?

On charismatic religion, glossolalia, and apophatic prayer—with Stanford anthropologist T.M. Luhrmann.

Wonderstruck: Can feeling small expand your soul?

On why awe is the oldest religious experience—with UC Berkeley psychologist Dacher Keltner.

Saint Dolly: How Dolly Parton became an American folk saint

On grace, the sacred feminine and working-class devotion—with journalist Sarah Smarsh (*She Come By It Natural*).

The Anti-Guru Guru: Do we need spiritual authorities?

On guru culture, charisma, and the boy who walked away from messiahship—at the Krishnamurti Center in Ojai, Ca.

Living Dead: Why we keep the dead close

On ancestor veneration, continuing bonds, and humanity's oldest conversation—with archaeologist Karina Croucher.

C.S. Lewis: Why do we long for other worlds?

On *sehnsucht*, Narnia, and C.S. Lewis's spiritual ache—with Oxford theologian Michael Ward.

Radical Habit: The enduring allure of nuns

On vows, #NunTok, and the strange freedom of enclosure—with Harvard historian Amy Hollywood.





Our hosts live the big questions.

Tiffani Jones Brown—Creator & host

Tiffani is a former tech executive, writer, and trained meditation teacher with a Master's in Divinity from the University of Chicago. She has spent her life following questions about religious life—from her family's Southern Baptist roots in rural Indiana and study of Islam Noir in Senegal, to the spiritually inclined corners of Big Tech.

Before founding Divinity School, Tiffani built brands and companies including Pinterest, Dropbox, Facebook, and West Co. Her first podcast, *Remotely Curious*, averaged 50,000 listeners per episode.

Sue Phillips—Co-host & resident theologian

Sue is an ordained minister and co-founder of Sacred Design Lab. Previously, she was a Ministry Innovation Fellow at Harvard Divinity School and co-founded the Impact Lab at On Being. She has brought theological depth to secular institutions including Pinterest, Google, the Obama Foundation, the Museum of the Future, and the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

Sue has spent her career asking what it means to build something sacred in a secular world—and knows how to make timeless questions land in the present.

Made with some of the best in narrative audio.

Cosmic Standard Studios

Led by public-radio veterans Eliza Smith and Jacob Winik, whose work includes *Spooked*, *Snap Judgment*, Adam Grant's *Working Smarter*, and the *Kitchen Sisters*.

Clare Chambers

Award-winning story editor and senior producer of Pulitzer Prize finalist podcast *Hysterical*, as well as Wondery's *Scam Factory*, *The Competition*, and *Fire Escape*.

Hannah Kingsley-Ma

Writer and researcher whose work appears in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Guardian*. Her fiction was selected for *The Best American Short Stories 2025*.



Season One is underway.

- PRX distribution partnership secured
- Invited to apply for John Templeton Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities grants
- \$175K in early patronage secured, from technology philanthropists including the **Biz and Livy Stone Foundation** and **Evan Sharp**
- 3 prototype stories reported and recorded (Oxford, Amsterdam, Ojai)
- Joseph Campbell Foundation confirmed as fiscal sponsor
- Winter 2027 target launch

A public home for the exploration of religious life.

Wonder-driven yet rigorous,
irreverently reverent—our goal is to
build a **new media institution** devoted
to understanding the religious instinct.
Spanning audio, photography and film,
essays, public scholarship, and live
gatherings.





Become a founding patron

We're seeking a small group of supporters to help bring Divinity School to life. To learn more or become a Season One patron, email ticjones@gmail.com.