

## ***Christian Public Worship Syllabus--31-511, Fall 2014, Thurs., 2:30-5:30***

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**Course description:** Christian Public Worship is designed to enable students to analyze, plan, and lead Christian worship with pastoral and theological integrity, and to understand denominational, cultural, and local church traditions in larger ecumenical and historical contexts. **Goals of the course:** (1) **Being:** To be a person of prayer who effectively leads others in prayer and worship; to live into the pastoral role of worshipping not as an individual but as a member and leader of the worshipping community. (2) **Knowing:** To understand the history, theology, and diverse practices of Christian worship and the sacraments through reading, reflecting, and engaging with the instructors and class members; to reflect theologically on what happens in worship. (3) **Doing:** To grow in planning and leading worship with excellence, attending to time, language, space, and participation; to preside at worship and administer the sacraments and rites of the church; to develop an area of interest or giftedness. **Methods** include lecture, reading, discussion, research, and preparation of written worship materials, as well as reflection on worship services led by small groups.

### Requirements

#### 1. **Completion of readings assigned for class sessions.**

2. **Class participation**, including: a) engagement with readings; b) prompt attendance at class and worship services; c) thoughtful participation (speaking and listening) in class discussions; d) evidence of a fair contribution to class worship services. Missing more than 2 class days affects your overall class grade; regular attendance is required to pass the course. 10% of grade.

3. **Prepare three written resources for corporate worship**; if for a particular worshipping community, please explain the context. Except for scripture, these resources must be original to you. Examples and explanations can be found in Worship Resources of the United Methodist Hymnal (WRUMH), the United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), Duck, Finding Words for Worship, and Stookey, Let the Whole Church Say Amen!. Choose and write three resources (total) from the list below, compile into one document and post on Moodle. Grading criteria include: appropriateness for worship; theological care; use of clear, direct language that speaks to heart, mind, and soul; use of vivid imagery; connection with daily life; grammar and spelling; care with layout.

a. **A prayer of confession and declaration of God's forgiveness.** See WRUMH, 31-32; 46-48; UMH, 7-8; Duck, 70-6; or Stookey, Exercise 9.

b. **A prayer using the collect form.** See UMH 201; Duck, 66-68; Stookey, Ex. 4.

c. **Call to worship or greeting.** See UMH, 6; Duck, 62-66.

d. **Opening prayer.** See: UMH, 6; Duck, 66; Stookey, Ex. 11.

e. **Prayer of preparation for scripture and/or sermon** ("prayer for illumination"). See WRUMH, 34-35; UMH, 6; Duck, 68-70.

f. **Prayers of intercession.** See UMH, 457, 461, 879; Duck, 76-80; Stookey, Ex. 20.

g. **A responsive reading or litany.** See UMH 80, 199, 556 or Stookey, Ex. 7.

h. **An original hymn text** (specify tune or provide your own). See Duck, 102-118.

First draft of paper due on Moodle by October 16. Second draft due Nov. 13. 15% of grade.

**4. Prepare a Great Thanksgiving prayer for the presider(s) at Holy Communion** (also called the Eucharistic prayer, the prayer of consecration, or the communion prayer.) The purpose of this assignment (whichever option) is to help you understand the structure and theology of the prayer and be able to pray it with depth and/or teach others about its meaning.

*No matter the tradition or form it should include the following theological touchstones:*

- 1) *thanksgiving to God*
- 2) *thanksgiving for Jesus Christ ( incarnation, life, ministry, death, and resurrection)*
- 3) *the story of the Last Supper (words of institution: “on the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread. . .”). You may also speak of the other meals of Jesus.*
- 4) *prayer for the work of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament, church, and world*
- 5) *concluding words of praise to God, usually in Trinitarian form*
- 6) *unless the prayer is very brief, sung or spoken parts for the people*

See UMH 9-11, for an example; simpler forms are fine, as long as these touchstones are present. See Duck, Worship for the Whole People of God, 192-199, or Stookey, 141, for more. First draft due October 30. Second draft due Nov. 13. 15% of grade.

**Option one:** Write an original Great Thanksgiving (based on tradition as appropriate to your background) that includes the theological touchstones listed above.

**Option two:**

Adapt your denomination’s Great Thanksgiving/ communion liturgy, making sure to add elements 1-5 above if not present in the prayer. If your denomination has several official prayers that have some sections that are the same in all versions, and some parts that change, you can write new words for the changeable part. Or you could adapt it for a special occasion (e.g., the end of a retreat), group (e.g. children), or purpose (e.g., contemporary language).

**Option three:**

Memorize a denominational Great Thanksgiving prayer in English, Spanish, French or Korean; appointment with instructor or TA must be made by October 30. (See UMH 9-11, Mil Voces, 14-17, or Come Let Us Worship (Presbyterian US, Korean), 19-23. We can explore the possibility of your memorizing in your first language if not listed.

**5. Leadership of class worship.** You will share with two or three other class members in planning and leading one of the following services; you may invite others to take additional roles. The default place of the services is the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful. (Please arrange with the instructor if your group would like to worship elsewhere)

- SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER
- SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE
- SERVICE INCLUDING BAPTISM
- SERVICE OF MARRIAGE
- SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The class and instructor will respond to your service in writing and aloud the day it is held. Each service should last from 35-50 minutes; services exceeding 50 minutes will be graded down. Please plan with this time, place, and group in mind, rather than planning it with your field education site in mind or re-using a service planned for another place and time. See “Class Worship Services,” pp. 5-7 in this syllabus, for grading criteria for the services. 20% of grade.

6. **Reflection paper on the worship service you helped to lead.** As soon as possible after the service, leaders meet to evaluate the service. Then each student writes a 3-4 page reflection paper (**due one week following the service**) about one's **learnings**. **Questions to address:**

**What did you learn about worship through planning and leading this service?**

**What did you learn about yourself as a worship planner and leader?**

**What went well? What might you do differently? (see grading criteria on pp. 6-7 of this syllabus for aspects to consider)**

**What theological themes and issues were important in this service?**

Focus on learnings, more than being defensive or blaming others. The service will be graded only after the professor receives reflection papers from **all** group members, so your group members will appreciate your timely fulfillment of this assignment. 15% of grade.

6. **Research project** integrating theory and practice, explained on page 8 below. Significant if brief **research** on an aspect of Christian worship, followed by or integrated with pastorally sensitive **application** to congregational worship in a local congregation in another setting. Care must be taken to reference all sources consulted and to put in quotation marks phrases or sentences copied from these sources. At least four sources (books or articles of a total of around 150 pages, not counting web sources) beyond required reading should be consulted. Due Nov. 20. 25% of grade.

*All assignments must be completed in order for a student to pass the course.* Students are encouraged to fulfill assignments in ways that serve field education or other worship experiences or leadership in seminary worship services; please give an introductory note about the context (community, worship style, season in the church year, etc.)

**REQUIRED BOOKS (Prices: A= Amazon.com; C=www.cokesbury.com; or see bookstore.northwestern.edu for Barnes and Noble prices.**

Costen, Melva. African American Christian Worship, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007. ISBN 978-0-687-64622-7. A: \$13.06; \$9.99 Kindle ed. C: \$11.34.

Duck, Ruth C., Worship for the Whole People of God. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-664-23427-0. A: \$23.56. C: \$22.05

Felton, Gayle C. By Water and the Spirit. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1997. (UM baptism document with study guide). ISBN 978-0-881-77201-2. A: \$9. C:\$6.80.

Long, Kimberly. The Worshiping Body. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009. ISBN 978-0-664-23311. A: \$13.51. C:12.60.

Stookey, Laurence H. Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. ISBN 0-87-12017-9. A: \$21.64. C: 15.12.

Stookey, Laurence H. Let the Whole Church Say Amen! Nashville: Abingdon, 2001. ISBN 0-687-090776. A: \$15.19. C: \$13.86.

Choose one of the following to read for Dec. 4:

Mankin, Maria, and Maren C. Tirabassi, From the Psalms to the Cloud: Connecting to the Digital Age. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8278-1932-8. A: \$15.39; C: \$12.60.

Watkins, Ralph C., Jason A. Barr, Jr., and Jamal Harrison Bryant. The Gospel Remix: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0817015077. A: \$11.90. C:11.25.

### REQUIRED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Available on Moodle

González, Justo. "Hispanic Worship." In Alabadle: Hispanic Christian Worship. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996, ch. 1.

Hawn, C. Michael. "Praying Globally," in In Christian Worship Worldwide, edited by Charles E. Farhadian. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007, 205-229.

Johnson, Todd E. "Resurrecting the Funeral Sermon." In Todd E. Johnson, ed., The Hour of Our Death in Liturgy (21/1, 2006), 29-36.

Lutheran World Federation Study Team on Worship and Culture. "The Nairobi Statement."

Joo, Seung Joong. "A Traditional Thanksgiving Festival in South Korea: Chusok. In Christian Worship Worldwide, edited by Charles E. Farhadian. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007, 96-106.

Witvliet, John D. "Afterword: Inculturation, Worship, and Dispositions for Ministry." In Christian Worship Worldwide, edited by Charles E. Farhadian. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007, 274-284.

### STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR UNITED METHODIST STUDENTS

United Methodist Church. This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion. Nashville: General Board of Discipleship, 2005. ISBN-13: 9780881774573. Discount Price: \$11.20. (This is the version with study guide ed. Gayle Felton).

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

*These are not required, but suggested for enrichment and research. The class schedule will list some of the books for the session for which they may be most appropriate. They will **not** be on reserve in the United Library.*

Bausch, Michael. Silver Screen, Sacred Story. Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 2002.

Black, Kathy. Worship Across Cultures. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

Bradshaw, Paul, ed. The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002).

Browning, Robert L. and Roy A. Reed. Sacraments in Religious Education and Liturgy. Birmingham, Ala.: Religious Education Press, 1985.

Bryans, Nena. Full Circle: A Proposal to the Churches for Art Ministry. San Carlos, Cal.: Schuyler Institute for Worship and the Arts, 1988.

Caldwell, Elizabeth F. Come Unto Me: Rethinking Sacraments for Children. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1996.

Cobb, Peter G., "The Liturgy of the Word in the Early Church," in Cheslyn Jones, Geoffrey Wainwright, Edward Yarnold, SJ, and Paul Bradshaw, The Study of Liturgy. New York: Oxford University Press/ London SPCK: 1992, 219-229.

Duck, Ruth. Finding Words for Worship. Louisville: Westminster Knox, 1995.

Duck, Ruth, "Expansive Language in the Baptized Community" in Dwight Vogel, ed. Primary Sources of Liturgical Theology. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000, 286-294.

Edie, Fred. Book, Bath, Table, and Time. Cleveland: United Church Press, 2007.

- Gilbert, Marlea, Christopher Grundy, Eric Myers, and Stephanie Perdew. The Work of the People. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2007. 1-56699-337-7.
- Erickson, Craig D. Participating in Worship. Louisville: Westminster Knox, 1989.
- Hickman, Hoyt, Don E. Saliers, Laurence Hull Stookey, and James F. White. The New Handbook of the Christian Year. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992, esp. pp. 16-48.
- Jones, Cheslyn, Geoffrey Wainwright, Edward Yarnold, SJ, and Paul Bradshaw, The Study of Liturgy. New York: Oxford University Press/ London SPCK, 1992.
- Kimball, Dan. Emerging Worship. El Cajon, CA: EmergentYS Books/ Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. 0310256445
- Knowles Wallace, Robin. Communion Services. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.
- Maynard-Reid, Perdito. Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean, and Hispanic. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. 083081579-1.
- Ruth, Lester, "A Rose by Any Other Name," in Todd E. Johnson, ed., The Conviction of Things Not Seen. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos Press, 2000, 33-51, 216-8.
- McFee, Marcia. The Worship Workshop: Creative Ways to Design Worship Together. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.
- Meeks, Blair, ed. The Landscape of Praise. Valley Forge, Pa.: Trinity Press International, 1996.
- Ng, Greer Anne Wenh-In. "Asian North American Community at Worship" in People on the Way. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 1996.
- Pak, Su Yon, Unzu Lee, Jung Ha Kim, and Myung Ji Cho. Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.
- Ramshaw, Gail. God Beyond Gender. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Saliers, Don E. Worship as Theology. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Segler, Franklin M., rev. Randall Bradley. Understanding, Preparing for, and Practicing Christian Worship, second ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Snider, Phil and Emily Bowen. Toward a Hopeful Future: Why the Emergent Church is Good News for Mainline Congregations. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2010.
- Spinks, Bryan D. The Worship Mall: Contemporary Responses to Contemporary Culture. New York: Church Publishing, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780898696752.
- Stookey, Laurence H. Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.
- Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs, "Navigating the Contemporary Worship Narrows," in Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship, ed Tisdale and Blount. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001, 174-188.
- White, James F. A Brief History of Christian Worship. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Introduction to Christian Worship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Sacraments as God's Self-Giving. Nashville: Abingdon, 1983.
- Wooton, Janet H. Introducing a Practical Feminist Theology of Worship. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

## THE PROCESS FOR CLASS WORSHIP SERVICES

Please consider where the service could best be held and arrange with the instructor to reserve the space. Please be sure to walk through the service ahead of time in the space.

We worship together and fill out response sheets, then take a break, then reassemble in the classroom to discuss it. Discussion always begins with affirmations. When giving feedback, try to describe how you felt and why, rather than to generalize. "I was anxious about the inserts because I kept dropping them." "I was troubled by the way you described grief because my father died last

month, and my feelings were not like that." Feedback shows not whether the group was "right" or "wrong," but what people experienced as they worshipped. Sensitivity and willingness to learn, and not perfection, are expected.

### *Class Worship Services: Goals, Procedures, and Grading Criteria*



Note: Each numbered item represents 10% of the grade for the class worship service.

1. **EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.** Qualities to look for include clear, audible use of voice; appropriate eye contact and connection with worshipers; and a gracious and hospitable leadership style, with enough familiarity with the order to help others follow it.
2. **UNIFYING THEME AND FITTING FLOW.** Services should be unified and well-structured; the parts should move purposefully and flow well from one part to the other.
3. **THOUGHTFUL PROCLAMATION OR INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE.** For services of word or word and sacrament, you may use drama, storytelling, or means other than a sermon if you wish. Only one person should preach, and that person should have completed a preaching course. For weddings and funerals, please include a clear witness to the Gospel AND reference to the particular persons and situations involved.
4. **SENSITIVITY TO RELEVANT PASTORAL ISSUES,** including: clear communication to class of any unusual pastoral situations (real or hypothetical) being addressed; choice of appropriate strategies to address them; pastoral sensitivity to all participants; honest naming of the human situation and of the resources of Christian faith to address our need.
5. **APPROPRIATE USE OF ACTION, SYMBOL, AND PARTICIPATION.** For all services: Consider how to facilitate the movements and actions of leaders and congregation, so that everything can proceed gracefully and appropriately and that everyone can see and hear what is happening. Consider also how to highlight the central liturgical symbols of the service.  
For baptism: Administer the water gracefully, enhancing the water symbolism and use hand laying or anointing thoughtfully.  
For communion: Care for the presentation of elements, gestures, and distribution. (Consult with professor about ordination requirements).  
For marriage services: Take care in processing and recessing, and positioning, as well as graceful exchange of any symbols.
6. **ENVIRONMENT AND ART FOR WORSHIP.** The space and setup should be worshipful, communicating through such things as symbols, colors, vestments, candles, or art.
7. **MUSIC.** Hymns and/or other music should be appropriate to the service and led effectively.

8. CARE AND CREATIVITY IN CHOOSING, DESIGNING, OR ADAPTING WORDS AND LITURGY. You may choose or adapt existing liturgies or design new ones appropriate to our class context; please consider resources from each group member's tradition. Bulletins or printed liturgies are not required, but if used, should be attractive and proofread. With or without bulletins, the congregation should be able to follow with ease. The groups should consider spoken words and/or printed texts carefully for theology and inclusiveness (see page 32, workbook, for guidelines and expectations), and acknowledge printed sources for the service.

9. EVIDENCE OF GOOD GROUP PLANNING AND COORDINATION. This involves: honoring each member's ideas; involving each member in leading the service; demonstrating comfort in sharing leadership roles; attending to mechanics, such as giving directions, moving, and preparing the space. Each member is expected to attend each planning session. For effective planning: (1) Surround your planning with prayer. (2) Take care to call forth the ideas and leadership of both experienced and inexperienced members. (3) Take minutes of each meeting and review them as a group, to keep track of decisions and task assignments.

10. CONNECTION WITH LIFE AND MISSION IN A DIVERSE WORLD. Groups are encouraged to address the concerns of daily life and to consider traditions of worship and congregational song reflecting the diversity represented in the class. In addition, please give thought to enabling participation of persons with disabilities in this service.

Not graded: ABILITY TO DESCRIBE THE THOUGHT AND PREPARATION THAT WENT INTO THIS SERVICE. Please be able to discuss what issues came up in planning and what preparations were necessary, so that members of the class can learn from you.

#### SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT SERVICES OF WORD AND SACRAMENT, BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH AND RESURRECTION

For the orders of Word and Sacrament, Baptism, Marriage, and Death and Resurrection, groups should prepare by studying sections on the rite in [The Worship Resources of the United Methodist Hymnal](#) and orders of two or more denominations.

You may bring a child for baptism; this is a dramatization for class, rather than a valid baptism. The Service of Christian Marriage is also a dramatization; ***do not use the real first and/or last names of the persons playing the part of bride and groom.*** The Service of Death and Resurrection may be a memorial service for a real person known to a member of the group or possibly someone whose death has touched the public recently. Provide the class with the story of the deceased (real or fictional) so that we can participate more fully in the service and discussion.

The Service of Word and Sacrament is, on the other hand, a valid sacrament; the experience of past classes has shown that rehearsing with empty cups and plates is not satisfying. Therefore, it is best to have one member of this planning group be ordained as an elder; or, the group may prepare an order and invite an ordained person to preside.

RESEARCH PROJECT -- CHRISTIAN PUBLIC WORSHIP (Requirement #6). This project is a paper of around ten pages in length (total), including your research on a topic listed below, or another approved by the instructor, and a plan for practical application of this research in a particular worshiping context which you specify. *Careful research and thoughtful integration of theory and practice are important. Please feel free to propose alternative projects, especially those useful in your ministry.*

Research topic:

Application:

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| 1. Qualities of a good hymn congregational song  | a. Write a hymn OR b. Review hymns by one writer or (e.g. Charles A. Tindley, Fannie Crosby, Brian Wren).  |
| 2. The role of dance or movement in worship  | a. Explore how to introduce dance in worship OR b. Plan an occasion of dance or movement.  |
| 3. Preparing for baptism   | Design a plan for baptismal preparation.   |
| 4. The role of a particular age group in worship   | Design a plan to:<br>a. Involve this group in Advent, Lent, or Easter worship; OR<br>b. Start an alternative service to address their needs.                                     |
| 5. The role of visual arts, church architecture, and/or media  | Describe and/or illustrate:<br>a. How to improve a particular worship space; OR<br>b. How to prepare the space for a season or occasion. OR<br>c. Using digital media in worship |
| 6. A season of the church year   | Design an overall plan for that season, including weekly themes and visual expressions.  |
| 7. The Moravian love feast or watch-night service  | Design a contemporary order of worship based on one of Wesleyan them.  |
| 8. Healing in Christian worship  | a. Design an order for healing worship (in general or for needs such as AIDS or sexual assault) OR b. Evaluate an order for healing.   |
| 9. The relation of worship and cultural context, with attention to a culture and perhaps a particular aspect of it (e.g. music)  | Develop plans for a specific worship service or a plan for renewing worship in a particular congregation of the particular culture you are studying.                             |
| 10. Consider the theology and practice of an issue regarding the sacraments, such as<br>a. Age or mode of baptism<br>b. Children and communion<br>c. Frequency of communion            | Develop a plan to address this issue within the life of a congregation through preaching, teaching, Bible study, and/or other methods  |
| 11. Research worship that draws on a particular perspective (e.g. womanist, feminist, mujerista) or serves a particular community (GLBT, hearing-impaired, nursing home, prison, etc.) | Review examples of worship from this perspective or community or develop a service or some liturgical resources appropriate to the topic.  |