

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MN709D -- WORSHIP IN THE REFORMED TRADITION

Fall 2006

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Sheldon W. Sorge
3 credits

Description

This course introduces students to the history, theology, and practices of congregational worship in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in order to equip students for sound and effective liturgical planning and worship leadership.

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world. (*Book of Order*, W-1.1001)

This class will focus on understanding worship:

1. historically: how has the church worshipped over the centuries?
2. theologically: what do we believe about worship? how does our worship tell us what we actually do believe?
3. practically: how do we plan/lead liturgy that enables God's people to worship with passion and integrity?

This course will nurture students' facility with designing and leading worship that is authentic and appropriate (*Book of Order*, W-1.2002):

1. by analyzing and writing liturgical texts.
2. by discussing appropriate movements, gestures, and practices in worship services
3. by discussing the role of music in worship, including instrumental, congregational, and choral music.

Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

- develop a clear understanding of the history, theology, and practices of Reformed worship
- develop a theological and practical understanding of the "Directory for Worship" of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, and other denominational resources
- become adept at designing liturgies for public worship in the Reformed tradition, and develop the capacity to think theologically and critically about how worship services are ordered

- become equipped to lead congregations and colleagues in discussions about the theology and practices of worship in the Reformed tradition

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals

The M.Div. curriculum will enable students to:

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God.
- Evangelize the world with faithfulness and contextual sensitivity.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Course Requirements

1. The student must keep up to date with posted lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions.
2. Responses to assigned questions must be posted timely to the class discussion board.
3. Two 3-5 page review papers on class texts *At the Origins of Christian Worship* and *Beyond the Worship Wars* must be submitted.
4. A 10 page annotated order of worship for a Lord’s Day service with either Baptism or Lord’s Supper – including commentary on the issues of theology, polity, and liturgy embodied in the chosen texts, music, and liturgical actions – is due two weeks after class ends.

Evaluation

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 50% - participation in class discussion boards, including responses to assigned questions
- 30% - final paper, annotated worship order
- 10% - review of Hurtado book
- 10% - review of Long book

Bibliography

1. Required Texts

Peter C. Bower, ed., *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003)

Ronald P. Byars, *Christian Worship: Glorifying and Enjoying God* (Geneva Press, 2000)

Larry W. Hurtado, *At the Origins of Christian Worship: The Context and Character of Earliest Christian Devotion* (Eerdmans, 1999)

Thomas G. Long, *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship* (Alban, 2001)

Leanne Van Dyk, ed., *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony* (Eerdmans, 2005)

Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox, 1993)

“Directory for Worship” from the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – available online or for purchase at www.pcusa.org/oga/constitution.htm

Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs (Westminster John Knox, 1990)

Sing the Faith (Geneva Press, 2003) – supplemental songbook to the Presbyterian Hymnal

2. Recommended Books

Thomas F. Best and Dagmar Heller, eds., *Worship Today: Understanding, Practice, Ecumenical Implications* – Faith and Order Paper No. 194 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2004)

C. Michael Hawn, *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship* (Alban, 2003)

Lisa N. Hickman, *The Worshiping Life: Meditations on the Order of Worship* (Westminster John Knox, 2005)

Judith L. Muck, *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Complete Concordance and Indexes* (Westminster John Knox, 1997)

Philip H. Pfatteicher, *A Dictionary of Liturgical Terms* (Trinity Press International, 1991)

Howard L. Rice and James C. Huffstutler, *Reformed Worship* (Geneva Press, 2001)

Jane Rogers Vann, *Gathered Before God: Worship-Centered Church Renewal* (Westminster John Knox, 2004)

Lukas Vischer, ed., *Christian Worship in Reformed Churches Past and Present* (Eerdmans, 2003)

Book of Occasional Services: A Liturgical Resource Supplementing the Book of Common Worship, 1993 (Geneva Press, 1999)

Call to Worship: Preaching, Music, Liturgy, and the Arts. This is a quarterly periodical published by the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The first volume each year is an expanded edition, with lectionary liturgical aids for the entire current church year. Go to www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/pubs/calltoworship.htm to order.

Note: Several of the resources in both required and recommended categories are included in *LabOra*, a worship planning software program available from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Class resources bundled into *LabOra* include the Directory for Worship, Book of Common Worship, Book of Occasional Services, Call to Worship, Presbyterian Hymnal, and the Concordance and Index to the Presbyterian Hymnal. *LabOra* includes a number of other useful resources for worship planning, including the Bible in two versions, the daily and weekly lectionaries, ability to output into bulletin and Powerpoint formats, and a complete music writing program. For information on ordering, call 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5329, and ask about a seminarian special.

COURSE CALENDAR

Gathering Around the Word

Week 1: Called to Worship

Week 2: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Gathering

Hearing the Word

Week 3: Preaching and Hearing the Word of God

Week 4: Planning Lord's Day Worship: The Word of God
-review of Hurtado book due at the end of the week

Responding to the Word

Week 5: Gifts of Gratitude

Sealing of the Word: Baptism

Week 6: Sealed by the Spirit

Week 7: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Baptism

Sealing of the Word: The Lord's Supper

Week 8: Feeding on the Lord
-review of Long book due at the end of the week

Week 9: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Lord's Supper

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Week 10: The Missional Church

Final Project Due Two Weeks Later: Annotated worship service for Christ the King Sunday.