

# UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## MN709D -- WORSHIP IN THE REFORMED TRADITION

Fall 2007

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 on time to the class discussion board.
3. Two critical reviews on class texts *At the Origins of Christian Worship* and *Beyond the Worship Wars* are required.
4. An 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 at the end of the semester.

### **Evaluation**

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 40% - participation in class discussion boards, including responses to assigned questions
- 40% - final paper, annotated worship order
- 10% - review of Hurtado book
- 10% - review of Long book

### **Weekly Schedule**

- Each class period lasts a full week, from Saturday through Friday. Lectures and weekly reading/writing assignments are posted each Saturday for the coming week.
- First responses to Roundtable assignments must be posted no later than Tuesday midnight.
- All other assignments are due by midnight on Friday.
- Lectures and assignments may be provided early upon request, if students know in advance they will be away from Internet access at the beginning of the class period.

### **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](http://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  
-Note: the small pew edition is sufficient, but the spiral bound accompaniment edition includes very nice piano accompaniments, as well as the verses for several hymns for which only the refrains are printed in the pew edition

## 2. Recommended Books

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

Ronald P. Byars, *Lift Your Hearts on High: Eucharistic Prayer in the Reformed Tradition* (Westminster John Knox 2005)

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Future of Protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars* (Westminster John Knox 2002)

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)

Roger E. Van Harn, ed., *The Lectionary Commentary*, 3 volumes (Eerdmans, 2003)

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)

J. Dudley Weaver, *Presbyterian Worship: A Guide for Clergy* (Geneva, 2002)

*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](http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/pubs/calltoworship.htm) to order.

*Texts for Preaching: Year A-B-C*. Three volumes. (Westminster John Knox)

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, Texts for Preaching 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**

### **Introduction**

Week 1: The History and Character of Reformed Worship - Class Period Ends 9/14

### **Gathering Around the Word**

Week 2: Called to Worship - Class Period Ends 9/21

Week 3: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Gathering - Class Period Ends 9/28

### **Hearing the Word**

Week 4: Preaching and Hearing the Word of God - Class Period Ends 10/5

Week 5: Planning Lord's Day Worship: The Word of God - Class Period Ends 10/12  
-review of Hurtado book due

### **Responding to the Word**

Week 6: Gifts of Gratitude - Class Period Ends 10/19

### **Sealing of the Word: Baptism**

Week 7: Sealed by the Spirit - Class Period Ends 10/26

Week 8: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Baptism - Class Period Ends 11/2

### **Sealing of the Word: The Lord's Supper**

Week 9: Feeding on the Lord - Class Period Ends 11/9  
-review of Long book due

Week 10: Planning Lord's Day Worship: Lord's Supper - Class Period Ends 11/16

### **Bearing and Following the Word into the World**

Week 11: Sending: Missional Church - Class Period Ends 12/7

Week 12: Worship Beyond the Assembly - Class Period Ends 12/14  
-Annotated worship service due, for Epiphany 2008