

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
PW3173
Worship in the Reformed Tradition

Sheldon W. Sorge
ssorge@lpts.edu
502-992-5430

3 credits
Gardencourt 205
MTWRF, 1:00-4:00
January 5 – 22, 2009

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Description

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*, Presbyterian Church USA, W-1.1001)

This course introduces students to the history, theology, and practices of congregational worship in the Reformed Tradition, specifically applied to the worship resources and practices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The purpose of the class is to equip students for sound and effective liturgical planning and worship leadership.

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 to the Reformed tradition and appropriate to our place and time (*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 examining the role of music in worship, including instrumental, congregational, and choral music.
4. by weaving these threads into themes established by the biblical texts for the day.

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

Course Requirements

1. The student is expected to attend class, complete assigned readings, and participate in class discussions.
2. Written assignments of 1-2 pages relating to the theology of worship and specific worship planning tasks will be issued most class periods. These assignments will be related to class discussions. When a student is absent, she/he may submit her/his paper by email to the instructor before the Friday following the class, to receive credit without penalty.
3. Three critical review papers on class texts *At the Origins of Christian Worship*, *Do This in Remembrance of Me*, and *Beyond the Worship Wars* are required.
4. The final exam is a ten-page annotated order of worship for Transfiguration Sunday 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.

Evaluation

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 20% - daily written assignments in worship planning and reflection
- 50% - final paper, annotated worship order
- 10% - review of Hurtado
- 10% - review of Moore-Keish
- 10% - review of Long

Bibliography

1. Required Texts

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)

Martha Moore-Keish, *Do This in Remembrance of Me: A Ritual Approach to Reformed Eucharistic Theology* (Eerdmans, 2008)

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

2. Required Reference

The following books will be used as resources for class discussions and assignments. Purchase is strongly recommended, if at all possible.

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

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

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

3. Recommended, but Not Required

The student wishing to engage our topics more deeply will want to add these books to her/his collection, as soon as possible.

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

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

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

Melva Wilson Costen, *African American Christian Worship* (Abingdon Press, 1993)

Harold Daniels, *To God Alone Be the Glory: The Story and Sources of the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva, 2003)

Marva Dawn, *A Royal “Waste” of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World*. (Eerdmans, 1999)

Abigail Evans, ed. *Healing Liturgies for the Seasons of Life*. (Westminster John Knox, 2004)

Paul Galbreath, *Leading from the Table* (Alban, 2008)

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

Lisa Nichols 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)

Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship: Reformed According to Scripture. Guides to the Reformed Tradition. Revised Edition* (Westminster John Knox, 2002)

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

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

Roger Van Harn, ed., *The Lectionary Commentary*. 3 Volumes. (Eerdmans, 2002)

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, Jr. *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 42.1. 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.

Holy is the Lord (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2003) - a book of service music for Reformed worship.

Note: Several of the resources in both required and recommended categories are included in *LabOra*, a comprehensive worship planning program. Class resources bundled into *LabOra* include the "Directory for Worship," *Book of Common Worship*, *Book of Occasional Services*, *Call to Worship*, *Holy is the Lord*, the *Presbyterian Hymnal*, and the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. *LabOra* also 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, a concordance to the *Presbyterian Hymnal* called *HymnSearch*, and a complete music writing program.

COURSE CALENDAR

Assignment Schedule

January 9 - Review of Hurtado due
January 14 - Review of Moore-Keish due
January 20 - Review of Long due
January 30 - Final Paper due

Monday, January 5

In preparation for class, read:

- Bower, 2-19
- Van Dyk, “Introduction”
- PCUSA “Guidelines and Definitions on Inclusive Language” at <http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/issues/inclusive.htm>

Class Content:

- Class Introduction - syllabus and booklist overview
- Critical Review Guidelines
- Worship Inventory - class members’ worship experiences and liturgical training
- Christian Liturgy - an ecumenical overview
- Reformed Worship - distinctives and continuities with the ecumenical tradition
- Common Lectionary or *Lectio Continua*?
- Definitions and Guidelines for Inclusive Language

Tuesday, January 6

Reading Day

- The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing (Blackboard)

Wednesday, January 7

In preparation for class, read:

- Van Dyk, “The Opening of Worship: Trinity”
- DFW, Preface, chapter 1, and 3.1000-3.3300
- BCW, 33-36
- Bower, 19-25, 45-52

Class Content:

- “Directory for Worship” and *Book of Common Worship* - PCUSA worship norms
 - order and freedom in Reformed Worship
 - the Regulative Principle
- Introduction to the Service for the Lord’s Day
- Lord’s Day 1 - The Gathering

Thursday, January 8

Reading Day

- Kathleen Healy-Wedworth, “Ministry or Performance?” (Blackboard)
- David Gambrell, “Speech, Song, Symbol, and Silence” (Blackboard)

Friday, January 9

In preparation for class, read:

- Van Dyk, “Confession and Assurance: Sin and Grace,” and 55-73
- DFW, W-2.2000, W-3.3400
- BCW, 36-37, 60, 90-93 (Prayers for Illumination), 599-600 (Psalms in Worship), 1033-34 (Scripture in Public Worship)
- Bower, 52-56
- C. Clifton Black, “The Blessings and Curses of Preaching” (Blackboard)
- Horace Allen, “Preaching in a Christian Context” (Blackboard)

Class Content:

- Lord’s Day 2 – The Word Read and Proclaimed

Hurtado Review due

Monday, January 12

In preparation for class, read:

- Van Dyk, “Creeds and Prayers: Ecclesiology”
- DFW, 3.3500
- BCW: 38-40, 92-125.
- Companion to the BCW: 56-61.

Class Content:

- Lord’s Day 3 – Thanksgiving and Supplication: Responding to the Word

Tuesday, January 13

Reading Day

- Hans Boersma, “Liturgical Hospitality” (Blackboard)
- Ron Byars, “Indiscriminate Baptism and Baptismal Integrity” (Blackboard)

Wednesday, January 14

In preparation for class, read:

- DFW, 2.3001-3014, 3.3601-3608, 4.2001-2007, 6.2005, and 6.3011
- BCW, 401-488 (scan the service texts, read the introductions on 403, 419, 431, 455, 464, 478)
- Bower, 155-172

Class Content:

- Lord's Day 4 – Sealing the Word I – Christian Baptism

Moore-Keish paper due

Thursday, January 15

Reading Day

- Thomas Day, “Hitting the Wrong Note” (Blackboard)
- Norma de Waal Malefyt and Howard Vanderwell, “The Case for Collaboration” (Blackboard)
- PCUSA booklet “Invitation to Christ” (Blackboard)

Friday, January 16

In preparation for class read:

- “Eucharist: Eschatology” in Van Dyk.
- DFW, W.2.4000, 3.3609-3.3619;
- BCW, 41-44, 67-77, 125-158 (Great Prayers of Thanksgiving - skim)
- Bower, 61-69
- PCUSA article on “Extended Serving of Communion” (Blackboard)

Class Content:

- Lord's Day 5 – Sealing the Word II – The Lord's Supper

Tuesday, January 20

In preparation for class, read:

- DFW, W.2.6000, 3.3700ff
- BCW, 44-45, 82-83, 159-160
- Bower, 70-72
- Van Dyk, “Ending of Worship: Ethics”

Class Content:

- Lord's Day 6 – The Missional Church: Sending into the World

Long review paper due

Wednesday, January 21

In preparation for class read:

- Michael Morgan, “Singing our Lives” (Blackboard)

Class Content:

- Lord’s Day 7 – The Lord’s Day Service as a whole
- The role of Psalms in Reformed Worship
- Burning questions – students may ask whatever they wish

Thursday, January 22

Study day for preparation of final paper

Final Paper due January 30: Annotated worship service for Transfiguration Sunday. Instructions are posted on Blackboard.