



WS O1 Introduction to Christian Worship

Mondays, 1:00 to 3:30
Term II, 2013-2014

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 Office Hours: by appointment

A survey of the history, theology, and practice of Christian worship, with particular attention to ecumenical developments in North American contexts. Topics will include the service of the Word, the celebration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, weddings, funerals, and the artistic languages of worship.

Course Objectives:

To become better practical, liturgical, and pastoral theologians by

1. developing a working knowledge of the origins and history of Christian worship as well as the variety of forms Christian worship takes in the world today, particularly in North America (PTS M.Div. goal 2);
2. demonstrating a grasp of the basic vocabulary of liturgical studies and some familiarity with the bibliographic and source materials useful for the ongoing study of worship (PTS M.Div. goal 3);
3. articulating key biblical and theological dimensions of Christian public worship, as well as identifying one's own operative theology of worship (M.Div. goals 1, 3, and 4);
4. exhibiting an aptitude for critical theological thinking about public worship (is it faithful?) and a pastoral sensitivity to the role of context in making judgments about worship (is it fitting?) (PTS M.Div. goal 4);
5. honing participant-observer skills in varied ministry settings, including the ability to compare and contrast the cultural, social, historical and theological factors that influence the liturgical structures and rites in traditions other than one's own (PTS M.Div. goals 2 and 4).

Required Reading

- *Coston, Melva Wilson. "Rituals, Sacraments, and Ordinances" in *African American Christian Worship*, Second Edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).
- *Dorn, Christopher. "The Emergent Church and Worship" *Reformed Review* 61.3 (Fall 2008):134-142.
- *Jensen, Robin Margaret. "Idol or Icon? The Invisible and the Incarnate God" in *The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith, and the Christian Community* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).
- *Lang, Bernhard. "The Sixth Game: Spiritual Ecstasy. Exercising the Gifts of Glossolalia, Prophecy, and Healing" in *Sacred Games: A History of Christian Worship* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).
- *Long, Kimberly Bracken. "Called out from the Body" and "The Embodied Nature of Worship" in *The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009).
- *Long, Thomas J. "A Sense of Movement, A Sense of Meaning, A Sense of Hope: The Good Funeral" in Long and Lynch, *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2013).
- *Mead, Rebecca. "Weddings 101" in *One Perfect Day: The Selling of the American Wedding* (New York: Penguin Books, 2007).
- *Moore-Keish, Martha L. "Eucharist=Eschatology" in Van Dyk, Leanne, ed. *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).
- White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*, Third Edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000).
- White, Susan J. *Foundations of Christian Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006).
- *White, Susan J. "Women, Worship, and the Christian Household" in *A History of Women in Christian Worship* (New York: Pilgrim Press, 2003).
- *Tel, Martin. "Music: The 'Universal Language' That's Dividing the Church" in Blount and Tisdale, eds. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000).

*These articles/book chapters will be available on the course portal.

Supplemental Reading

- Brown, Frank Burch. *Inclusive Yet Discerning: Navigating Worship Artfully* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009).
- Crowley, Eileen. *Liturgical Art in A Media Age* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007).
- Johnson, Maxwell E. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012).
- Miller, Donald E. and Yamamori, Tetsunao, "Encounters with the Holy" in *Global Pentecostalism* (Berkeley: University of Southern California Press, 2007).
- Thompson, Bard. *Liturgies of the Western Church*, Second Edition (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980).
- White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993).
- Denominational Directory for Worship (various)

Strategies for Achieving Course Objectives

1. *Required Reading*
2. *Worship Autobiography*
3. *Participant-Observer Journal* (10 pages total, brief reflections on worship services)
4. *Research-Reflection Paper* (10 pages, analysis of a liturgical practice in historical and contemporary context)
5. *Final Examination*

Expectations:

1. Discussion is a critical component of this course, and the absence of any one student impoverishes the learning of the whole. Missing more than one class session will result in a lower final grade.
2. Laptops are welcome in the classroom for the purpose of taking notes, but there will be times when we “unplug” for the sake of a richer conversation. Cell phones should be silenced and stowed while we are in session.
3. Students who may need accommodations in their classes should contact the Dean of Faculty as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion.

Evaluation

Grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance/participation	15%
Worship Autobiography	10%
Participant-Observer Diary	25%
Research-Reflection Paper (on a practice)	25%
Final Examination	25%

Course Outline

December 2 ♦ Introduction to the work of the course

- Ways to study Christian worship
- What is a participant-observer?

Read for next time:

- White, *Introduction*, 17-80
- White, *Foundations*, 1-22

December 9 ♦ In the Beginning: Christian Time

Read for next time:

White, *Introduction*, 131-150

White, *Foundations*, 112-117

White, Susan J. “Women, Worship, and the Christian Household” [mypts]

December 16 ♦ Daily Public Prayer

Read for next time:

White, *Introduction*, 151-174

White, *Foundations*, 106-111

January 6 ♦ The Service of the Word

Read for next time:

Coston “Rituals, Sacraments, and Ordinances” [mypts]

White *Introduction*, 175-228

White, *Foundations*, 68-87

January 13 ♦ Baptism and Confirmation

Read for next time:

Moore-Keish “Eucharist=Eschatology” [mypts]

White, *Introduction*, 229-262

White, *Foundations*, 88-105

January 20 NO CLASS [Martin Luther King Day]

January 27 ♦ The Lord’s Supper

Read for next time:

Long, “A Sense of Movement, A Sense of Meaning, A Sense of Hope: The Good Funeral” [mypts]

Mead, “Weddings 101” [mypts]

White, *Foundations*, 126-151

February 3 ♦ Christian Marriage and Services Occasioned by Death

Read for next time:

Tel, “Music: The ‘Universal Language’ That’s Dividing the Church” [mypts]

Jensen “Idol or Icon? The Invisible and the Incarnate God” [mypts]

February 10 ♦ The Artistic Languages of Worship I

Dr. Martin Tel of Princeton Theological Seminary will be on campus January 13-14, leading in chapel and hosting discussions about congregational singing, multicultural liturgical resources, and collaborative worship planning. You need to attend at least one of these events and write about it in your participant-observer journal!

Music in worship
The visual arts
Multi-sensory worship

Read for next time:

Long, “Called out from the Body” and “The Embodied Nature of Worship” [mypts]
White, *Introduction*, 81-110

February 17 ♦ The Artistic Languages of Worship II

The Art of Leading Worship
The Language of Space

Read for next time:

Dorn, “The Emergent Church and Worship” [mypts]
Hanson, “Mr. Spock Goes to Church” [mypts]
Lang, “The Sixth Game: Spiritual Ecstasy. Exorcising the Gifts of Glossolalia, Prophecy,
and Healing” [mypts]
White, *Foundations*, 152-173

February 24 ♦ Considering the future

Technological Change ♦ Global Pentecostalism ♦ Postmodernism

Final Exam Date TBD

“Good Christian liturgy is friendship in action, love taking thought, the covenant relationship between God and his people not simply discovered and celebrated like the sudden meeting of friends, exciting and worthwhile though that is, but thought through and relished, planned and prepared—an ultimately better way for the relationship to grow and at the same time a way of demonstrating what the relationship is all about.”

– N.T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*