

**Foundations of Christian Worship**  
**Theo 7203**  
**Fall 2012**  
***Draft***

**Teachers**

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**Introduction**

This course is about our practice of corporate, gathered worship. The mission of the Triune God is to draw human beings into the eternal life shared by Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Worship is the most basic action for creatures and the most meaningful action of followers of Jesus. The whole life of a Christian is formed by an encounter with God within the worshipping community. We will explore the biblical roots of worship, the development of the practice of Christian worship throughout history, and the contemporary challenges of the worshipping life of the community. We will also spend a good deal of time exploring the practices of worship planning and execution. We come from different worshipping traditions but we share in common our “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” **The primary goal of this course is to develop a distinct Christian theology of worship as the basis for our practice and learn to shape and evaluate, and execute our worship on those biblical and theological terms.**

**Goals**

1. To provide an overview of the history, theology and practice of Christian worship.
2. To explore the relationship between corporate worship and the life of faith.
3. To develop a practice of pastoral worship leadership that reflects current praxis and evaluates it using history and theology.
4. To be able to articulate the relationship and distinctions between corporate and private prayer/worship, as well as corporate prayer and evangelism.
5. To develop a personal theology of worship and to shape worship on those theological convictions.
6. To be able to apply this theology to the practice of pastoral rites such as baptism, dedication, Eucharist, weddings, funerals and other rites and services of the church.
7. To be able to work in a group to plan and evaluate worship.

**Texts**

*Introduction to Christian Worship*, Third Edition, James White; *The Worship Architect*, Constance M. Cherry; *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, Paul Bradshaw, ed. ; *Living Worship*, James F. Caccamo, Todd E. Johnson, Lester Ruth; *The Covenant Book of Worship*; *The Covenant Hymnal: A Worshipbook*.

Books on Reserve: *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*, Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds.; *Worship Across Cultures*, Kathy Black; *The Conviction of Things Not*

*Seen*, Todd E. Johnson, ed.; *At the Origins of Christian Worship*, Larry W. Hurtado; *African American Christian Worship*, M. Costen.

### **Class Requirements**

1. Attendance at all classes and participation in discussions and group projects.
2. Visit of and written reports on four congregations *outside of your normal experience*.
3. Preparation of and participation in a seminary chapel service. Evaluation of peer's service. *Students in this class are expected to regularly attend seminary chapel. We study worship in the context of communal worship. Students should also, as a matter of course, be attending a local church.* The dates for the services will be announced. Each will include a communion service.
4. Participation in a group to prepare a variety of worship services. The groups will focus on worship planning and on learning to work together with variously gifted people—an important part of pastoral leadership.
5. All required readings and viewing of *Living Worship*.
6. A Mid-Term and Final exam.
7. Final Project: Each student will plan two of the following: (a) Sunday morning worship; (b) Communion Service; (c) Special Service: either funeral, wedding, service of healing, or other special service approved by the instructor; (d) Seasonal Service: Advent/Christmas, Lent/Holy Week/Easter, Sunday Service, Holy Week Service, Vigil, etc. The project should include the following:
  - i. A complete order of service with rubrics and instructions for participants;
  - ii. A description of the congregation, couple (wedding), or individual (funeral), or situation that is the subject of setting of the service, including the building in which the service is held. Outline the challenges of the place. The sociology and history of the congregation and community must also be taken into consideration including their worship tradition and its liabilities. These can obviously be imaginary people or places.
  - iii. Biblical, theological, historical, and cultural rationale for each part of the service: liturgy, biblical texts, hymns or choruses, etc.
  - iv. Brief sketch of where you would go with the sermon.
  - v. Project will be evaluated on the thoroughness, appropriateness, and creativity of the approach to worship.
8. Grading
  - i. Class Participation, including group projects: 10%
  - ii. Reports on visits to churches and evaluation of chapel services: 10%
  - iii. Planning and Participation in chapel service: 10%
  - iv. Reading of assignments and viewing of *Living Worship*: students will be asked to report on their reading and viewing at the end of class: 10%
  - v. Mid-Term 10%
  - vi. Final 10%
  - vii. Final Project: 20%

## **Class Calendar**

**Assignments are for the *following classes*.**

Introduction to Class; What is Christian Worship?

Assignments: White, pp. 17-46; Cherry xi-33; "Living Worship": Overview, Community

Pastor as Worship Leader and Planner; Sharing experiences and expectations, reflecting on Cherry.

Assignments: The Covenant Book of Worship, 3-46, 123-126, 159-160, 185-186, 223-225, 253-256, 397-399; also browse the resources and reflect on their value. The Covenant Hymnal: A Worshipbook: viii-x; browse through the hymnal and discern how it lives up to its stated purpose. If you are not from the ECC, please explore the worship book and hymnal of your tradition.

Introduction to the Covenant Book of Worship and Hymnal

Assignments: At the Origins of Christian Worship, Larry Hurtado, pp. 39-97; The Oxford History of Christian Worship, 1-75; Deuteronomy 6:4,5,13,14; Exodus 20:18-21; Hebrews 12:18-29, Acts 2:43-47; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, 14:1-40; Revelation 4, 5.

Worship in the Bible

Assignments: Cherry, 35-66; Living Worship, Contemporary Community

Architecture of Worship Planning/Working Together in Groups for Worship Planning; Meeting of four groups planning worship for chapel.

Assignment: White, 151-173, Living Worship, Sunday Service in Ordinary Time, "Preaching and Worship," The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship, John A. Melloh, "Word, Services of the", NWDLW, various authors.

September 19: Service of the Word

Assignment: Cherry, 67-83, 221-257; Living Worship, Participants: Church Members, Pastoral Staff and Volunteers, Browse Witnesses, Browse Orders of Worship.

Planning Sunday Morning Worship/Group Planning: Each group between the classes should meet and plan and present a service for their "churc", giving rationale for all parts of the service. *The process could be as follows:*

- *Groups will meet together to settle on a theme and format for the worship service using the Covenant Book of Worship or other worship resources.*
- *Groups will divide into groups to work on various parts of the service: liturgy (order of worship), sermon/homily, music, facility.*
- *One member of the group will be delegated to share their approach with the rest of the class.*

Assignments: White, 175-201; "Eucharist" in NWDWL, various authors; Living Worship, Lord's Supper in Advent.

#### Service of Table

Assignment: Cherry, 85-109, explore orders of Holy Communion in several worship books and make observations and evaluations.

Planning for the Service of Table/Working in Groups: Each group as before to prepare and present a service of Holy Communion, giving rationale for all parts of the service.

Assignments: White, 203-228; "Baptism" in NWDWL, various authors, Living Worship: Infant Dedication, Baptism. Matthew 3:1-17 and parallels; Acts 2:37-42, 8:26-40, 10:44-48, 19:1-7 Romans 6.

#### Sacraments: Baptism

Assignments: CBW, "Font and Pool", "Blessings" pp. 123-155; examine services and preparatory materials in two additional worship books; CH, explore the hymns in the "Baptism", and "Blessings of a Child" section of the hymnal.

Planning for Baptism or Blessing: four teams to plan a baptism service either adult convert (by immersion), infant, small child, child dedication. How would you prepare the participants? How would you explain the rite? Where would you hold the service and why?

Assignments: White, 47-80; Cherry, 205-218.

#### Sacred Time: Church Year and the Lectionary

Assignment: Living Worship: NWDWL: "Lectionaries," "Year, Liturgical", CBW, "Celebrating the Christian Year," 253-256; explore resources for the church year in the CBW and two other worship books.

Planning for the Church Year: the four teams meet, plan and report on what would go into planning in their "church" for an assigned season. What factors should be considered for preaching, teaching, music, worship. Advent/Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.

Assignments: White: 81-109, NWDWL: "Architectural Setting (Historical)", "Architectural Setting (Modern)," "Vestments", "Colours, Liturgical."

#### Sacred Space: Sanctuary, Art, and the Ambiance of Worship

Assignment: *Living Worship*: "History of the Worship Space", "Sunday Service in Ordinary Time": How does the space and appearance contribute or distract from the worship of God? Come prepared to share experiences from visits to churches. How did the aesthetics contribute or distract from your worship of God? **Take home Mid-term.**

Arranging and Using Space: Each group will plan and defend the use of space, color, and art for one of four services: Christmas, Easter, Holy Communion, and Baptism.

Assignment: White: 111-129, Cherry: 151-177, NWDWL: "Music as Worship," Spend some time with the Covenant Hymnal. What sorts of songs and hymns are present? How can the book be used in the preparation of worship?

#### Sacred Music and Worship

Assignment: Cherry, 179-203, 221-257; "Beyond Style", in *Convictions of Things Not Seen*, Todd E. Johnson, ed. 67-81, *Living Worship*: "Worship Preferences," "Music at Ravenswood Covenant Church," Comments of Donald Hustad, Matthew Lundgren.

Planning Music for Worship: Four groups will plan music for a service and explain and defend their decisions: Sunday Morning Worship, Communion Service, Service in Advent, Service in Eastertide.

Assignment: NWDWL: "Black Churches' Worship", "African American Worship Practices" in *Worship Across Cultures*, Kathy Black: 21-34, *African American Christian Worship*, Melva Costen, 1-37, 45-78, 120-126.

#### Worship in the African American Tradition

Assignment: "Promises and Problems of a Multiethnic Church," and "Disconnected Rituals" in *The Conviction of Things Not Seen*, Todd E. Johnson, ed. 53-66, 141-152, NWDWL, "Inculturation," *Worship Across Cultures*, 11-20. What is the difference between worship that is "inculturated" and "acculturated"?

#### Planning Worship in a Diverse Congregation

Assignment: NWDWL: series of short articles on Advent and Christmas; explore resources for Advent and Christmas in the CH and CBW. "Living Worship": "Lord's Supper Service in Advent."

#### Worship During Advent and Christmas

Assignment: NWDWL: series of short articles on Easter, Lent; explore resources in CBW and CW for Lent and Easter, "Living Worship": "Easter Service".

#### Worship During Easter and Holy Week

Assignment: Cherry, 243-275, *Living Worship*, "Witnesses".

Reports on Experiences Outside Your Own Tradition; come prepared to share, reflect and evaluate.

Assignment: White, 263-303; NWDWL, "Marriage"; CBW, explore and analyze the services and resources for weddings; *Living Worship*, Wedding.

Planning Weddings; Each team choose a "couple" to interview and prepare the wedding service to share with the whole group.

Assignment: NWDWL, "Funerals"; CBW, explore and analyze services and resources for funerals; *Living Worship*, "Memorial Service".

## Christian Funerals

Assignment: "Ritual as Pastoral Care", Will Willimon, in *Conviction of Things Not Seen*, 99-108; look at funeral services in three different books of worship, comparing what you found in the CBW and bringing appropriate resources to class.

Planning Christian Funerals; four teams will each plan a different funeral: young person who died in an accident; a still-born child, a young mother who died of cancer, and an elderly saint who died in her sleep.

Assignment: White, 131-149; NWDLW, "Daily Prayer"; bring or report on a resource for personal prayer and worship.

## Personal Worship

## **Final Exam**