

Knox College: Reformed Worship Winter 2020

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the nature of Christian worship from a Reformed perspective. What are the foundations of Reformed Worship? What is distinctive about the theological and practical realities of Reformed Worship? By engaging with historical and contemporary sources, students will discover the basics of worship leadership in Presbyterian pastoral settings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In successfully completing this course, a student should be able to:

1. Gain an introductory knowledge of the foundations, history and distinctive aspects of reformed worship, and be able to identify the core principles of reformed worship.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the liturgical traditions and practices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and design worship services which reflect these traditions and practices.
3. Assess critically the significance of worship space and setting, and demonstrate the incorporation of the liturgical calendar in worship services.
4. Demonstrate an ability to prepare public prayers, evaluate and choose music for worship, and write or select other liturgical elements.
5. To gain an appreciation for the wide variety of liturgical resources available - in print and online, and demonstrate an ability to evaluate and apply these resources in the design of worship services within the reformed tradition.
6. To begin to establish one's identity as a worship leader in a particular culture and setting through critical reflection upon personal experience and in interaction with familiar and unfamiliar worship settings.
7. Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the sacraments of baptism and communion, and an understanding of how these sacraments fit practically and theologically into the worship service as a whole.
8. Be able to discuss the role of worship in pastoral care, including weddings, funerals and long-term care facilities.

TEXTS:

- Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. Available at amazon.ca, and as an ebook.
- *Book of Liturgy/Worship*. As a worship leader, you will find it useful, if not essential, to have a *Worship Book* to assist you with a variety of liturgies -

baptism, communion, funerals, weddings, etc. There are many of these books available, and some which are particularly appropriate for leading worship in a reformed setting. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has “The Book of Common Worship.” The Presbyterian Church USA has the “Book of Common Worship.” The Church of Scotland has a “Common Order.”

Before week 5 of this course, take a look at these 3 options. You will likely find these books on a minister’s bookshelf. They are also on reserve in Caven Library. See the online versions of the PCUSA Book of Common Worship <http://bookoforder.info/Book-of-Common-Worship.pdf>. You can order the PCC Book from the PCC Resource Centre (resources@presbyterian.ca). Or go to amazon.ca

Decide which you like best and which you might find most useful in the early years of your ministry. Purchase your chosen book and be prepared to discuss them in week 5 of the course.

REQUIRED READING:

Most weeks, there are articles/chapters to be read. These are available online or in pdf format. See weekly ‘To Read’ section for access instructions.

COURSE EVALUATION:

1. Worship Outlines 35%
2. Participation in Online Discussion and Exercises 15%
3. Book Review 20%
4. Reflection on New Liturgical Experience: 15%
5. Open Book Exam 15%

ASSIGNMENTS: DETAILS AND DUE DATES

1. **Worship Outlines: Advent I, Pentecost, Good Friday**

Purpose: To practice constructing services of worship using available resources.

Instructions: Using the lectionary, develop complete orders of worship for the 1st Sunday of Advent 2019, Pentecost 2020, and Good Friday 2020. You will build on your learning in this course regarding the general shape of reformed worship, as well as the priorities of reformed worship.

- a) describe the context of the worshipping congregation. You can choose any Presbyterian congregation (real or imagined). Briefly explain the location, demographic and usual style of the congregation’s worship.
- b) For each of the three services, design an order of worship. Describe each element of the worship service in detail, and provide a rationale for its inclusion. What is the general goal of the service, and how do you feel that this service will accomplish your goal? For example, include your chosen Call to Worship, and explain how this element fits into the service as a whole.
- c) Please use a variety of resources (printed and online) in order to help you

develop the prayers and elements of worship. Be as creative as you like - but remember that you must justify the inclusion of each element based on the principles of reformed worship.

d) Submit as a Word document, with Bibliography.

Evaluative Criteria: Design of service (do they reflect reformed worship priorities, are they complete); appropriate use of available resources; ability to justify the inclusion of each element; creativity.

Due: April 7

2. Participation in Class Discussion and Exercises.

a) complete all required readings.

b) participate fully in class discussions

Evaluative Criteria: For class participation, you will be graded on your depth of insight, level of engagement with others, and the degree to which you reveal familiarity with course materials.

3. Book Review

Purpose: The purpose of the book review is to engage deeply with a resource that will stretch your learning beyond the materials presented in class. The review also gives you an opportunity to practice thoughtful and critical evaluation of available worship resources.

Instructions:

a) choose one of the following books. If there is a book that is not listed here which particularly interests you, please speak to me (you must have permission to review a book that is not on this list).

Duck, Ruth C. *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

Hawn, C. Michael. *Gather into One: Praying and Singing Globally*. Eerdmans, 2003.

Plantinga, Cornelius P. and Sue A. Rozeboom. *Discerning the Spirits: Understanding and Evaluating Contemporary Worship Practices*. Eerdmans, 2003.

Blount, Brian K. and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Witvliet, John. *Worship Seeking Understanding: Windows into Christian Practice*. Baker Academic, 2003.

b) In 1200-1500 words, double spaced, provide:

- your reason for choosing this book, and why you think it is important for worship leadership today.
- a brief summary of the argument of the book. This should not merely retell the book, but communicate clearly the main arguments.
- a critical, evaluative reflection on the book. In your opinion, what is the value of this book for worship in the Presbyterian Church in Canada? What have you learned from this book that will support you as a worship leader? What are the theological and pastoral implications of this book? In what way does this book reflect/not reflect the principles of reformed worship?

Evaluative Criteria: Depth of engagement with book, ability to clearly identify the implications of this book for pastoral ministry; ability to engage with the book from the perspective of reformed worship; clarity and style of writing.

Due: Feb 25

4. Reflection on New Liturgical Experience

Purpose: There is value in discovering worship practices that go beyond our own experience, or our own denominational tradition.

Instructions:

- a) Plan to attend a worship service in a Christian tradition/denomination that is unfamiliar.
- b) prepare a reflection of your experience (500 words) to be shared in a post during the week of November 2. What was comfortable/uncomfortable? What was familiar/unfamiliar? Was there anything you experienced that you would like to adapt for use in your own worship context? If possible, include the order of worship.
- c) You will be invited to comment on the posts of other students.

Evaluative Criteria: Depth of reflection, ability to communicate effectively your thoughts and feelings about the experience, and apply it to your own worship setting.

Due: Feb 4

5. Open Book Exam.

Purpose: To gauge your level of understanding of course material.

Instructions: The exam will be posted on Quercus on April 14th. You will have 48 hours to submit the completed exam.

Due: April 14-15

COURSE OUTLINE

Part A: The Big Picture

Week One: Introduction to Course

Week of January 7

Read:

- White, James F. Introduction to Christian Worship, 3rd Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000. Chapter 1, What do we Mean by Christian Worship?
- Cherry, The Worship Architect, Introduction.

Week Two: Foundations for Worship

Week of January 14

Read:

- Cherry, The Worship Architect, Chapter 1: Establishing the Foundation, Biblical Worship and Chapter 2: Setting the Cornerstone, Worship is Centered in Jesus Christ
- Howard L Rice and James C. Huffstutler. Reformed Worship. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2000. Chapter 2: From New Testament to Reformation

Week Three: Liturgical Structures: Order and Language

Week of January 21

Read:

- Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 3: Four Rooms for Encountering God, Chapter 4: The First Load-Bearing Wall (Gathering), Chapter 5: The Second Load Bearing Wall (the Word).
- Rice, Reformed Worship. Chapter 6, The Service for the Lord's Day

Week Four: Liturgical Structures: Time, Space and Symbol

Week of January 28

Read:

- White, Introduction to Christian Worship, Chapter 2: The Language of Time.
- Stephen Burns. Liturgy: SCM Studyguide. SCM Press, 2006. Chapter 2: Space and Symbol
- Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 12: Encountering God in the Christian Year.

Week Five: Leading Worship in a Reformed Setting

Week of February 4

Read:

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-1991/when-you-lead-worship-practical-advice-worship-leaders>

Week Six: Worship Resources

Week of February 11

Read No readings for this week. A good time to read your Book Review choice!

Week of February 18: READING WEEK

Part B: Elements of Worship

Week Seven: Public Prayer

Week of February 25

- Read: Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 9: Encountering God in Prayer.
- Rice, Reformed Worship. Chapter 8: Prayer

Week Eight: Sacraments I - Communion

Week of March 3

Read:

- Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 6: The Third Load- Bearing Wall, The Table of the Lord. Chapter 7: The Third Load-Bearing Wall, The Alternative Response to the Word. Chapter 8: The Fourth Load-Bearing Wall, The Sending.
- <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/lord-s-supper-practice-in-the-reformed-and-presbyterian-tradition/>

Week Nine: Sacraments II - Baptism

Week of March 10

Read:

- Rice, Reformed Worship. Chapter 4: The Sacrament of Baptism.
- Read the Baptism section of the Gift of God Study Guide published by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. http://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/cm_gifts_of_god_study_guide.pdf

Week Ten: Music in Worship

Week of March 17

Read:

- Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 10: Encountering God in Music, Singing the Church's Song. Chapter 11: Encountering God in Music, Offering "Sound" Musical Leadership.

- Martin Tel, “Music: The Universal Language,” in Blount, Brian K. and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Week Eleven: Worship as Pastoral Care

Week of March 24

Read:

- Cherry, The Worship Architect. Chapter 15: The Hospitable Worship Leader.
- Thomas Long, *Accompany them with Singing: The Christian Funeral*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. Chapter 5: The Funeral as Worshipful Drama. Chapter 8: Planning the Funeral - Practical Matters.
- *Worship in Long Term Care Settings (Presbyterian Church in Canada)*. Document will be posted on Quercus

Week Twelve: Reformed, Always Reforming

Week of March 31

Read: No readings.

COURSE POLICIES:

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox College Student Handbook*. In particular note:

Late Assignments Policy: You must contact the instructor in advance if your assignment will be late. Otherwise, 4 points will automatically be deducted after midnight on Tuesday. If you have informed me in advance that your assignment will be late, you will lose two points if you hand it in by Friday at noon, and 2 more after Friday at noon (to a maximum of 4 points per week.)

Completion of Course work: all course work (including any late work) must be completed by dates as set out by the Instructor. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. An SDF request form must be submitted.

Style Guidelines for Papers: see *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

Attendance: Students are expected to see that in a professional program they must approach study as they would employment. To that end, it is a regulation of the Board of Governors of Knox College that a minimum of 80% attendance at lecture courses is required for credit: 100% attendance is required at seminar courses. Habitual lateness for class will be counted as absence.

Inclusive Language: Inclusive language is to be used in all class presentations and written assignments.

Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic Degree Handbook

Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor about any questions you may have. E-mail is normally the most immediate form of contact.

GRADING SCHEME

The grading scheme for this course is outlined in the Basic Degree Handbook.

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