WO 601: Public Worship: Discussion

Lester Ruth

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WO 601: Public Worship: Discussion  
Spring, 2002; Wednesdays, 1-2:50 p.m.  
Room: AD 303

Note: This course requires familiarity with the First Class email system in order to facilitate small group work. Students should have an open account at the beginning of the semester. A class folder, with team folders within it, will appear on your First Class desktop.

Facilitators:  
--Lester Ruth; 218 Beeson; 858-2175 (office hours: 9:45-10:45 Tuesdays; 3:30-4:30 Wednesdays; other times by appointment)  
--J. D. Walt; 203 Estes; 858-2183

Course Description  
The course will provide a study-discussion-performance format for practical interaction and application with the course content of WO510. The primary work of the class will be the planning and design of worship services, some to be used in the campus Chapel services and beyond, with a secondary goal of providing resources to the local church. Students will construct a biblical, theological and historical matrix through which to critically evaluate worship services as well as develop a series of worship values to inform sound worship planning. Credit only. 2 hours.

Learning Objectives  
1. Students will develop disciplines of prayer and discernment relevant to the planning and design of Christian worship.  
2. Students will understand, articulate and internalize appropriate and relevant values underlying all Christian worship.  
3. Students will gain ability to work as part of teams to plan and lead worship.  
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to design a variety of different styles of worship services applying consistent theological, biblical, pastoral and historical concepts.  
5. Students will gain exposure to a wealth of worship resources and develop a worship resources bibliography for future use.  
6. Students will develop critical evaluation tools with which to analyze worship practices.  
7. Students will gain appreciation for issues relating to worship environment, including time, remembrance, space, symbols, technology, and other issues.

Course Format  
Students will work in groups to plan, design, and lead worship services. Class will meet together once per week in a two hour session. Generally some class time will be devoted to discussion and evaluation of worship services and some will be given to worship planning and design in smaller groups. Students will also be required to attend Tuesday/Thursday services in Estes Chapel throughout the semester. A student will
receive no credit for the class if he or she misses more than 4 chapel services in the semester.

Readings & Texts
Required Books

Required articles (on reserve in the library)
Witvliet, John D. “Beyond Style: Asking Deeper Questions about Worship.”
Congregations 27, 4 (July/August, 2001): 19-21, 35.

Means of evaluation
The class is graded credit/no credit. No letter grade will be given. In order to receive credit, each student must:
--participate satisfactorily in all class discussions and attend all class-conducted worship services (Generally, attendance at all Estes chapels is expected. If a student misses more than 4 Estes chapels services, no credit can be given.);
--turn in a reading report on Wednesday, May 15, verifying that all required reading has been done (see the last page of the syllabus);
--participate satisfactorily within the student’s small group as it plans its assigned worship services; and
--participate satisfactorily with assigned class presentations, both individual and small group presentations.
Worship Planning and Leading Assignments

The class will do 3 joint projects:

1) plan and lead a Communion service using the 4-fold order of worship from Robert Webber’s Planning Blended Worship for Estes Chapel on Thursday, March 7; written part of the assignment due February 27.

2) plan and lead a preaching service (i.e., no Communion), adapting the 4-fold order of worship from Webber’s Planning Blended Worship, for Estes Chapel on Thursday, May 9. The service should be appropriately designed so as to commemorate the Lord Jesus Christ’s Ascension. Written part of the assignment due May 1.

3) plan (but not lead) a 4-fold order of worship including both Communion and Baptism appropriate for the commemoration of the Lord’s outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Everything due May 15.

Specifications for each group assignment:

For each group assignment, according to the dates listed above, the group should develop in written form the following:

--Description of assumed congregation
--Order of worship, including all texts and/or provisions for extemporaneity
--A plan and description of space and environment
--Rubrics (instructions for who does what, when, and how)
--General time assessment for how long each aspect of worship will last
--Annotated bibliography of resources used to plan and develop service; annotation means that you give a short 1-2 sentence description of what the resource contains and how it was helpful.

The class will also be divided into 2 groups labeled Bethel and Canaan. Here are the details for each group’s assignments.

Note: Triduum means the 3 days from the Last Supper to Easter Sunday.

For the Bethel group:

--#1: develop and present a plan of creative, imaginative ideas for setting a broader congregational context for worship from the Triduum through Pentecost; central question: how could we help a congregation enter into, understand, be aware of, prepare for, and participate in worship in this season even more fully?; the group will present in class on March 6; distribute copies of the presentation via email on March 4.

--#2: choose the Scriptures appropriate for commemorating the Passion of Christ on Good Friday; develop a plan for creative presentation of these Scriptures appropriate for a service on that day; the group will present in class on March 27; distribute copies of the presentation via email on March 25.

--#3: develop and present an order of worship for a prayer service (should include neither preaching nor the sacraments) appropriate from sometime on Pentecost day; this service should not be the main service of worship for the intended congregation on that day; the service should include both the texts (or provision for extemporaneity) and the rubrics (i.e., instructions for movement, arrangement, etc.) for this service; the group will present in class on April 24; distribute copies of the presentation via email on April 22.
For the **Canaan** group:

---#1: develop and present a plan for art and environment for a congregation’s worship space for the time between the Triduum and Pentecost; give special attention to visual art, color, and symbols appropriate to this time in both non-electronic and electronic forms; the group will present in class on March 20; distribute copies of the presentation via email on March 18.

---#2: with a specific congregation in mind, develop and present a catalog of music appropriate for the time between the Triduum and Pentecost, utilizing as a minimum the United Methodist Hymnal, Maranatha!, Integrity, and Passion music collections; list appropriate musical pieces along with suggestions as to their best use in worship; the group will present in class on April 10; distribute copies of the presentation via email on April 8.

---#3: develop and present an order of worship for a Communion service appropriate for the Thursday evening before Christ’s crucifixion; the service should include a footwashing; the order of worship should include both the texts (or provision for extemporaneity) and the rubrics (i.e., instructions for movement, arrangement, etc.) for this service; the group will present in class on May 8; distribute copies of the presentation via email on May 6.

As one can tell, much of the worship planning for this semester’s class will deal with what ancient Christians would call the Great Fifty Days, the time from the Lord’s death and resurrection, through His Ascension, to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (We will follow the ancient practice of seeing the Thursday for Christ’s death through Easter Sunday as a unified whole, too.) Think of our assignments like a set of blueprints. This season with appropriate remembrance of Christ is the first level, the basic backdrop for our worship planning. On top of this level you will develop specific sets of “plans” (congregational context, music, Scripture, art and environment, specialized services) to fill in the details in order to develop a resource for this crucial season as well as to discuss the nature of worship planning generally. Dream creatively and wholistically.

**Other class presentations**

In addition to the presentations of worship planning and preparation as detailed above, students will also make the following presentations:

1) on February 27, each student will make a **short** (5 minutes or less) presentation on one of the characteristics described by Thomas Long in *Beyond the Worship Wars*. Design the presentation as if you were giving it to the worship committee of a local church. The characteristics will be assigned in class.

2) On April 17, each group will make a presentation (12-13 minutes) on one of the churches discussed in Clark’s *How We Seek God Together*. More than being just a review of the information, each group’s presentation should be a discussion of how they would use this information as a teaching resource for a local congregation.

**Class rhythm**

As a discussion-oriented class, it is important to have some parameters for guiding us to the most fruitful use of class time. To achieve this end, the typical class
will have the following rhythm: devotion (10 minutes); teaching time (25 minutes); response to teaching (15 minutes); evaluation of worship or student presentations (30 minutes); planning for future projects/chapels (30 minutes).
## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading to be done</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>Classifying approaches to worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Types of services</td>
<td>Webber, <em>Planning Blended Worship</em></td>
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<td>&amp; orders of worship</td>
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<td>February 27</td>
<td>The Long matrix</td>
<td>Long, <em>Beyond the Worship Wars</em></td>
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<td>February 27: Student presentations interpreting Long</td>
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<td></td>
<td>February 27: written order for March 7 service</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Introduction to resources</td>
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<td>March 6: Bethel presents plan for broader congregational context; distributed via email on March 4.</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Plan and lead Communion service in Estes chapel</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Hospitality in worship</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Fullness in worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20:</td>
<td>Canaan presents plan for art and environment; distributed via email on March 18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Mystery and remembrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27:</td>
<td>Bethel presents plan for worship with the Word for Good Friday; distributed via email on March 25</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Graciousness in leading and presiding</td>
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<td>April 10:</td>
<td>Canaan presents catalogue of music for Triduum through Pentecost; distributed via email on April 8.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Discussion of Clark book and tape</td>
<td>Clark, <em>How We Seek God Together</em></td>
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<td>April 17:</td>
<td>Bethel and Canaan make presentations on one of the churches in the Clark book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Why do different people worship differently</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24:</td>
<td>Bethel presents prayer service for Pentecost; distributed via email on April 22.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Role and function of music</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1:</td>
<td>written order for May 9 service due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Worship as corporate ritual act</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8:</td>
<td>Canaan presents Communion/footwashing service for Maunday Thursday; distributed via email on May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9:</td>
<td>plan and lead Ascension service in Estes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Wrapup</td>
<td></td>
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<td>May 15:</td>
<td>group presentation of Pentecost service</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15:</td>
<td>reading report due (see last page of the syllabus)</td>
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Supplemental Bibliography

When in doubt, check out the book list available through www.calvin.edu/worship and Webber’s The Complete Library of Christian Worship.

Category: Architecture

Category: Worship and the Arts

Category: Worship and the Bible

Category: Worship in the Bible

Category: Calendar
**Hickman, Hoyt et. al. The New Handbook of the Christian Year. Nashville: Abingdon. (Provides a complete set of services for special days in the calendar with a great commentary.)

Category: Children in worship
Steward, Sonja M. and Jerome W. Berryman. Young Children and Worship. Louisville:

Category: Conflict in worship

Category: Worship and cultural/multi-cultural worship


**Category: Denominational books**

**United Methodist Book of Worship**

**Church of the Nazarene Manual (current edition)**

**Free Methodist Pastor’s Handbook**

**The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church (current edition)**

**Category: Discernment** and the American context for worship


**Category: Evangelism** and “Contemporary” Worship


**Category: Guides** to “nuts-and-bolts” issues


Hickman, Hoyt et. al. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*. Nashville: Abingdon. (Provides a complete set of services for special days in the calendar with a great commentary.)


**Category: History**


Category: **Hospitality**

Category: **Music**

Category: **Worship in a postmodern context**

Category: **Praise-and-Worship**

Category: **Communal Prayer**

Category: **Being a pastor and presider in worship**

Category: **Prophetic “Whoa Nellie” readings**

Category: **Resource materials**

Category: **Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper**


------------- For the Life of the World.


Category: Worship in small churches


Category: Worship teams


Category: Theology of Worship


------------- For the Life of the World.


Category: Worship in a United Methodist context


## Worshippers Evaluation Matrices

### CENTRAL ISSUES

1. Was any Central Theme, Purpose or Occasion evident?

2. Did the service hold together with Organic unity?

3. Were Transitions Seamless?

4. Choreography smooth?

5. Diversity of Participants?

6. Was Congregation engaged to meaningfully participate?

7. Did the service have good flow and sense of timing? Start and End on time?

8. Was technology used effectively?

### FULL BREADTH OF MEMORY

1. God’s Person and Activity

2. Old & New Testaments

3. Full Ministry of Christ

4. Individual and Corporate

5. Historical and Ahistorical (i.e. Luke 2:1-ff)

6. Cosmic and Personal (i.e. 2 Cor 5)

### FULL RANGE OF ACTIONS

1. Praise

2. Thanksgiving

3. Confession of Sin

4. The Big Narrative Framework

5. Proclamation of the Gospel

6. Offering of Ourselves

7. Intercession for Others

8. Unity in Community with God

9. Moving people from one state to another

### FULL RANGE OF VALUES

1. Presence of Mystery

2. Thoughtful explicit & implicit Hospitality

3. Visible Sense of Drama of Worship

4. Excellent and Eclectic Music

5. Creative adaption of Space and Environment

6. Connection with Local and Global Mission

7. Worship order stability & Congregational familiarity

8. Ending with Joyous Festival Experience

9. Strong connection between Worship Leader and Congregation
Reading Report
Due: May 15

By my signature below, I certify that I have completed all of the required reading for WO601.

____________________________________
Signature

____________________________________
Date