

Abstract

MF 4503

The Theology and Practice of Christian Worship

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Professor of Divinity

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
Fall 2010, Monday, 6:15 – 7:55 PM, Two Credit Hours

This course reviews the theological and aesthetical bases of public Christian worship, the structure of the “deep” and “shallow” order of worship, and the various forms and styles of music and arts that can be used in relation to a given public service. Its main objective is to provide the student with a forum in which to examine the theological foundations for Christian worship, and develop ways to analyze and create patterns and tools for the practice of worship in a free-church tradition. It is also an aim for this course that the student will relate this knowledge to a practical expression of the ministry of worship in relation to the other ministries of the church in a particular church setting, and gain a distinct cultural sensitivity that will prepare her/himself to respect and value the tradition of others and her/his own.

Books of required reading are: (Readings from books marked with *** will be provided by the professor.)

***Blount, Brian K. and Tubbs Tisdale, Leonora, editors. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multi Cultural Worship*. Louisville: Westminster, 2001. ISBN 978-0664222024

Dawn, Marva J. *A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. ISBN 978-0802845863.

Ellis, Christopher. *Gathering: A Theology and Spirituality of Worship in Free Church Tradition*. London, SCM Press, 2004. ISBN 978-0334029670

***Fitch, David E. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and Other Modern Maladies*. Louisville: Baker Books, 2006. ISBN 978-0801064838.

***Liesch, Barry. *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. ISBN 978-0801063565.

Webber, Robert E. *Worship is a Verb: Eight Principles for Transforming Worship*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1995. ISBN 978-1565632424.

***Webber, Robert E., *Blended Worship: Achieving Substance and Relevance in Worship* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2000). ISBN 978-1565632455.

***White, Susan F. *Foundations of Christian Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0664229245.

Students will write two study papers (around 2000 to 2500 words), observe and report three different worship services of denominational traditions other than her or his own, collaborate in the preparation of a Chapel service for Leland, and participate in debates on the theological and aesthetical constituents of worship.