

PUBLIC WORSHIP

LOCAL LICENSING SCHOOL 2023

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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

- Worship is the center of the Christian community.
- Worship is one of the central tasks of the appointed clergy.
 - The Book of Discipline describes the [responsibilities of a pastor](#) and says the pastor is "to preach the Word of God, lead in worship, read and teach the Scriptures and engage the people in study and witness."
(BOD para 340)
- Worship is the one of the most public display of the church, especially now that we are online.

PURPOSE OF THIS WORKSHOP

- Two-fold:
 - Theology of Worship (first half)
 - Practical application (second half)
- We will focus on the **CONTENT** of worship (what is at the heart of worship and what does it mean to worship well) rather than debate the **FORM** of worship (contemporary vs traditional).

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. What is the best worship experience you had?
2. What is the worst worship experience you've had?
3. What made it good and what made it bad?
 - What do you remember about the worship service?
 - What do you remember about the sermon or proclamation?
 - How did you feel?
4. How has worship changed post COVID?

AS A GROUP...

- Name the top 3 elements that make for good worship.
- Name 3 elements that make for bad worship.

What is Worship?

Worship does God's story.

-Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship*



WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- Worship **remembers** the past and **anticipates** the future (Webber)
- *Christian worship is a God-instituted gift to the church for nurturing our relationship with God and others. **Worship is above all to God, with God, and for God.*** (Cherry, xii)

HOW WE WORSHIP?

- Worship is a conversation between God and God's people. God *always* initiates the conversation.
 - Worship is an invitation, NOT an invention (Cherry, p.54)
 - “True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for *the Father* seeks such as these to worship him.” (John 4:23-24)
- Worship is always meant to be shared in community
- Liturgy
 - comes from the Greek word *leitourgia*
 - Means: work of the people

THE BASIC PATTERN OF WORSHIP

(FOUR FOLD PATTERN OF WORSHIP)

- Gather
- Proclaim
- Respond
- Going Forth

(UMH, p. 2)

BIBLE STUDY: LUKE 24: 13-35

- The Road to Emmaus as an act of worship.
- How is the four-fold pattern of worship present in the Road to Emmaus story?

BREAK



DOING GOD'S STORY...

- Worship tells the story of God's salvation each week and over the course of the year
- The Christian Year/Liturgical year
 - Advent
 - Christmas
 - Epiphany
 - Lent
 - Easter
 - Pentecost
 - Ordinary Time

TELLING GOD'S STORY...

- Revised Common Lectionary
 - Ecumenical in nature
 - Pre-selected collection of scripture readings from the Bible
 - Follows a 3-year cycle of weekly texts
 - Year A: Matthew, Year B: Mark, Year C: Luke
 - Typically includes a reading from the Hebrew Bible, Psalm, Epistle, Gospel Reading

TELLING GOD'S STORY...

- Sermon series meets the specific needs of my specific context.
- Sermon series can help us meet our missional goals.
 - Adam Hamilton on 5 kinds of sermon series (Hamilton, Unleashing the Word)
 - Evangelism
 - Discipleship
 - Pastoral Care
 - Equipping and Sending
 - Institutional Development

ROLE OF THE PASTOR

- Pastor—meet people where they are
- Priest—mediate presence of the Holy Spirit
- Prophet—help move people into what might be

Barbara Day Miller, *The New Pastor's Guide to Leading Worship*

WORKING WITH OTHERS

- Worship Team
 - Music Director
 - Program Staff
 - Key lay leaders
- Worship Planning
 - Integrate worship into church programming (Sunday School, children's time, Studies)
- Work with clergy colleagues and share resources!

WORSHIP IS THE STARTING POINT...

- Lenten Sermon Series: In the Footsteps of Jesus (sermon series loosely based off of Adam Hamilton's The Way)
 - Lenten kits for children and adults with a map of the Holy Land, stickers of feet, weekly activity, ashes for Ash Wednesday
 - Children's Time focused on a different location where Jesus traveled, placed stickers of Jesus' feet on the map.
 - For Palm Sunday, make palms using cutouts of feet
 - Responses included: writing baptism date on stones (for baptism Sunday), prayer walks, writing postcards to people in the church.
 - Study based on sermon series

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Break out into groups of 2-3
- Create an outline of a worship service for one of the Sundays in July
(You can use lectionary text or sermon series)
- What scripture will you focus on? How will you incorporate it into liturgy?
- What will be the response?

FIRST SUNDAY/MONTH/6 MONTHS

- Visit sanctuary space/watch worship online (DO BOTH!)
- Walk through the entire worship service—know the choreography of worship, be familiar with the spaces
- Test microphone and sound
- Practice how Holy Communion is done!
- Know your church's rituals
- Practice makes perfect

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

- How should we celebrate and recognize secular holidays?
- Should I change my worship/sermon to address a current cultural event?
- How can worship be more inclusive of children? Older people?

RESOURCES

- Book of Worship
- United Methodist Hymnal/In Faith We Sing
- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>
- <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.textweek.com/>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>

RESOURCES

- *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative* by Robert E. Webber
- *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*, by Constance Cherry
- *Unleashing the Word: Preaching with Relevance, Purpose, and Passion*, by Adam Hamilton
- *The New Pastor's Guide to Leading Worship*, Barbara Day Miller
- *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Q & A

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