

PUBLIC WORSHIP

LOCAL LICENSING SCHOOL 2021

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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

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 in the last 14 months? What has stayed the same?

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

TELLING GOD'S STORY...

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

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

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://crackersandgrapejuice.com/show/strangely-warmed/>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>

Q & A

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