

**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
Upper New York Winter Term – Online
January 15-16 and February 26-27, 2021**

**CS 223 Worship and Sacraments
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Mount Elewononi
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Course Description

This course examines worship within The United Methodist Church including liturgy, sacraments, and special services. Attention will be given to the pastor's role as leader in worship.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of worship consistent with the Wesleyan tradition, including reflection on the theology and rhythm of Christian time.
2. Articulate a Wesleyan theology of sacraments and be competent in their administration.
3. Interpret theologically the rites of Christian Marriage, and of Death and Resurrection, and be able to lead such services well.
4. Construct a worship service, and reflect theologically on the use of hymns, media, contemporary music, and lay leadership.

Texts

1. Laurence Stookey *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* This is a workbook with space to write in the pages, so you may find it helpful to buy a paper copy.
2. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
3. *Choose 1*
 - a. Ruth, Lester *Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship*
 - b. Smith, James K. A. *You are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*
 - c. Vogel, Dwight W., OSL, *Food for Pilgrims: A Journey with St. Luke*

You may access electronic copies from Wesley Library here:

http://search.ebscohost.com.wesleyseminarylibrary.idm.oclc.org/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=857554&site=ehost-live&ebv=EK&ppid=Page-__-1

Required Reference

4. *United Methodist Book of Worship*
5. By Water and the Spirit - <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>
6. This Holy Mystery - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>
7. Taylor Burton-Edwards *Living into the Mystery: A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion*

Program Schedule

- Saturday January 2, 2021 – turn in first assignment to Blackboard – please write it before you read any of the assigned books, or watch any videos. You may turn it in as soon as Blackboard accepts it.
- Watch Part I videos before writing assignments
- Friday January 15, 2021 ZOOM
 - 1:00 p.m. – Worship and meet and greet
 - 1:30 p.m. – Discussion of Ruth, Smith and Vogel books
 - 1:50 – Baptismal Tai Chi together
 - 2:00 - 2:50 – Discussion of videos Part I and any questions you have so far
- Make an appointment to talk with Sarah about the course one-on-one
- Post responses to items I-IV on the Discussion Board by 11:59 pm January 15
- Comment on two of your colleagues' responses' to each item I-IV on the Discussion Board by Sunday January 17, 11:50 pm

- Watch Part II videos before writing assignments
- Friday February 26, 2021 ZOOM
 - 1:00 p.m. – Worship and Check in
 - 1:30 p.m. – Discussion of Formation, Habits and Worship
 - 1:50 – Baptismal Tai Chi together
 - 2:00 – 2:50 – Discussion of Church Time, Weddings, Funerals and Witness
- Make an appointment to talk with Sarah about the course one-on-one
- Post responses to items V-XI on the Discussion board by 11:59 pm February 26
- Comment on two of your colleagues' responses to each item V-XI on the Discussion Board by Sunday February 28, 11:50 pm

Assignment Instructions

- Assignment 1 is due January 2 - to help the instructor plan. Please read the assigned texts before writing the other assignments.
- Assignments 2 - 4 part 1 are due January 15
- Assignments 4 part 2 - 8 are due February 26.
- All assignments are due by 1 p.m. on the first day of class via Blackboard.
- Each assignment should be double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman (or similar) font, with one-inch margins.
- Your answers are to be in your own words, while showing you understand the main ideas found in the readings. Do not take up a lot of space quoting sources. Use short citations like (*Flow* p. 3) or (BOW 334).
- The page numbers are set as a minimum. Please do not go over more than a page.

Assignments

1. **Your Experiences Leading Worship** DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS OR WATCH THE VIDEOS. Write a paper outlining actual questions or quandaries about United Methodist worship that have come up for you

and/or your congregation(s) since you began your pastoral ministry. Consider the following in regard to your appointment:

- a. Attending to the liturgical year
- b. Administering Baptism and Holy Communion
- c. Conducting funerals
- d. Conducting marriages (2 pages)

NB Please note whether you have chosen the Smith, Ruth or Vogel book as your third text. *This assignment is meant to help you get clear on what you most want to learn in this class.*

2. **Become a Book of Worship Trivia Champ** Review the table of contents of the BOW, read all of the introductions to sections, and read over the rubrics. Make note of any questions you have. Take the BOW trivia quiz found on Blackboard. You may use your BOW while answering the quiz. (Due January 15 at 1 p.m.)

3. **Let the Whole Church Say Amen** Read through this workbook and do all of the exercises. Please work through it as Stookey designed it to be done in short segments every two or three days, not all at once. Exercises 1-12 and Interlude C should be completed by 1 p.m. on Friday January 15. The remaining exercises should be completed by 1 p.m. Friday February 26. Look for and answer questions about this experience on the Discussion Board.

4. Writing and Analyzing Liturgy

Part 1

- a. Watch the three videos in Lesson V Eucharist
- b. Carefully read pages 33-80 of the *Book of Worship, This Holy Mystery*, and *Living Into the Mystery*.
- c. Then read the Open Source Liturgy Project Document and Slides:
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TVIVusmL11ry4zByhtoQ2OvBzx-P47ROIyts_Aj_N0E/edit?usp=sharing
 - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SPL5-uSNf06Cd676WKp7cKv10qNKo6r3xvN40SQIdMY/edit?usp=sharing>
- d. Read *A Native American Celebration of Holy Communion*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-native-american-celebration-of-holy-communion>
- e. Read *Breaking Bread Behind the Wall*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/breaking-bread-behind-the-wall-a-prison-communion-liturgy>
- f. Read *Holy Communion at the End of an Appointment*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/holy-communion-at-the-end-of-an-appointment>
- g. Then following the core for developers, put together a worship bulletin listing the scripture text(s), acts of worship, hymn choices, a paragraph describing the theme of your sermon, prayers etc. and including an original custom-made communion liturgy that you have written for one of the following contexts.
 - i. The birthday celebration of a parishioner who has turned 100 (or another milestone)

- ii. UMCOR Sunday March 14, 2021
- iii. The dedication of lay leaders in your church (teachers, Habitat for humanity volunteers, mission team etc.)
- h. Turn in this bulletin on January 15 with the rest of your papers (3 pages – be ready to send a second copy of this paper to a colleague – which we will organize together on January 15)

Part 2

- i. Using the videos for Part I, readings, class discussions and information offered by the Open Source Liturgy Project, evaluate a class-mate’s worship service with communion liturgy. Does the worship follow the Basic Pattern? Does it follow the core? Does it flow? Is it scripturally based and theologically sound? Is there any wording or action that may inadvertently exclude someone, or that might be misinterpreted? What adaptations would you want to make before you used this service and liturgy for your congregation? (2 pages)
5. **Worship as Spiritual Formation** Read Hickman, *By Water and the Spirit* and your choice of *Flow*, *You Are What You Love* or *Food for Pilgrims*. Reflect on worship in light of the mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Write a paper exploring how worship design and practices might lead your congregation to become more awake to the work of God in the world and in their lives, and inspires them to participate in the life-long process of transformation that restores us to the image of God. Write about your role as pastor in this process of formation. What is the role of other members of your congregation? What did you learn from Smith, Ruth or Vogel that will shape your future worship leadership? (4 pages)
6. **Explanatory Letter** The daughter of an active member of your congregation sends you an e-mail asking if you will “do her wedding” six weeks from now. She has already booked the reception hall and paid for the photographer so the date is not flexible. There is nothing on your calendar or the church calendar that conflicts with this date. The bride was confirmed in your church years ago, but she and her betrothed now live 120 miles away. You don’t know anything about how they may currently be living out their faith. Write a letter describing the intents and purposes of the rite of Christian Marriage as outlined in the United Methodist Book of Worship and explained in Lesson 9. Explain under what conditions you would be willing to conduct their wedding, or why you would not be willing to do so (2 pages).
7. **Service of Death and Resurrection** Pick one funeral you have conducted and reflect back on it. Create (or reproduce) a worship bulletin for this service (if your current congregation does not use bulletins please type up the order as best you can). Annotate the bulletin, explaining the choices you made (see example on Blackboard). Be sure to include a paragraph about person who died and their context, and another paragraph about the theme of your sermon as well as explanation of each act of worship – describing how it helps the congregation worship God and/or honors the deceased as a child of God. Did you help the person’s loved ones choose the music, scripture readings, prayers, media, and lay leadership with the person in mind? Use the concepts and practices you are gaining in this class to think through and describe what took place -

where do you see the circle and the spiral - where did liturgy show up when you weren't looking for it? How did you tap into tradition, scripture, theology and experience to help give this precious soul a good send off? Is there anything you might do differently now because of what you are learning? Try writing a prayer for this funeral using what Stookey has been teaching you. (1 bulletin plus 2 pages)

8. **If you only knew then what you knew now....** Write a summary of the most helpful things you have learned in this class. Review what you wrote for assignment 1 and reflect on which of your questions have been addressed. What new questions have been stirred up by this class? (1 page)