

**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study  
Online Asynchronous Videos and  
Zoom Meetings  
Saturday March 12 and Friday April 8, 2022**

**CS 223 Worship and Sacraments  
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Mount Elewononi  
e-mail: [smount@bu.edu](mailto:smount@bu.edu)  
508-375-8852 mobile – text or call**

### **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

- Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – Fill in Basic Info Google Doc [here](#).
- Tuesday, February 15, 2022 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.
- Sign up for the Safe Harbor Discord server using the link Sarah sends you upon completing the Basic Info Google Doc
- Watch Part I videos before writing the other assignments due by 11:59 pm March 11
- Drop in and talk with Sarah in the Safe Harbor Parlor during office hours as needed  
Times: TBA
- Meet with your small group to prepare presentation of Ruth, Smith or Vogel book
- Saturday March 12, 2022 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
- Post responses to items I-IV on Safe Harbor Discord by 11:59 pm March 11
- Comment on two of your colleagues' responses' to each item I-IV on the Safe Harbor Discord by Sunday March 13, 11:50 pm
  
- Watch Part II videos before writing assignments due by Noon April 8
- Drop in and talk with Sarah in the Safe Harbor Parlor during office hours as needed  
Times: TBA
- Friday **April 8, 2022** 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
- Post responses to items V-XI on the Discussion board by noon April
- 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

- Fill in Google Doc Basic Info Form by February 1 or when you register.
- Assignments 2 is due February 15 - to help the instructor plan. **DO NOT START READING THE TEXTS OR WATCHING THE VIDEOS BEFORE UNTIL AFTER THIS ASSIGNMENT IS COMPLETE.**
- Please read the assigned texts before writing the other assignments.
- Assignments 3 - 6 part 1 are due at 11:59 on March 11 via Blackboard.
- Assignments 6 part 2 - 10 are due at noon on April 8 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. These are short papers; 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. [Basic Information form](#). Please use this link and fill out the Google form as soon as you register for the course.
2. **Your Experiences Leading Worship DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS OR WATCH THE VIDEOS.** Write a letter called “Why I deserve an A” dated April 8. Imagine yourself in the future describing what you have learned and accomplished in this course. Be sure to name 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 weddings (2 pages)

*This assignment is meant to help clarify to Sarah what you most hope to learn in this class.*

3. Note whether you have chosen the Smith, Ruth or Vogel book as your third text. You will be placed in a small group with other class members who are reading the same book, and will prepare an engaging summary for the rest of the class.
4. **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 March 11 at 11:59 pm)
5. **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 noon on Saturday March 12. The remaining exercises should be completed by noon Friday April 8. Look for and answer questions about this experience on the Discussion Board.

## 6. 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/document/d/1TVIVusmL11ry4zByhtoQ2OvBzx-P47ROIyts_Aj_N0E/edit?usp=sharing)

- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SPL5-uSNf06Cd676WKp7cKvI0qNKO6r3xvN40SQIdMY/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 put together a whole worship service for this event. Write a paragraph describing the specific context for this service. Create 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 (following the core for developers) for one of the following contexts.
  - i. The birthday celebration of a parishioner who has turned 100 (or another milestone)
  - ii. Native American Ministries Sunday May 1, 2022
  - iii. The dedication of actual lay leaders in your church (teachers, Habitat for humanity volunteers, mission team etc.)

*This is NOT just busy work – but something you can actually use in your present appointment!*

- h. Turn in this bulletin on March 11 with the rest of your papers (3 pages – be ready to email a second copy of this paper to a colleague – which we will organize together on March 12)

## 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? Does it honor the people while avoiding stereotypes? What adaptations would you want to make before you used this service and liturgy for **your** congregation? (2 pages)
7. **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)

8. **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).
  
9. **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? Write a prayer for this funeral using what Stookey has been teaching you. (1 bulletin plus 2 pages)
  
10. **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)