**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study**

**Online Asynchronous Videos and**

**Zoom Meetings**

**Friday March 10 and Friday April 14, 2023**

**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 please buy a paper copy.
2. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
3. *Choose 1 of the following 3* 
   1. Ruth, Lester [*Flow*](https://web-p-ebscohost-com.wesleyseminarylibrary.idm.oclc.org/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzIyMjM5NjFfX0FO0?sid=39da20e3-91d1-483b-9619-bcf5fc653708@redis&vid=2&format=EK&rid=1)*: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship*
   2. Smith, James K. A. [*You are What You Love*](https://web-p-ebscohost-com.wesleyseminarylibrary.idm.oclc.org/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzEyODcyNDVfX0FO0?sid=39da20e3-91d1-483b-9619-bcf5fc653708@redis&vid=3&format=EB&rid=1)*: The Spiritual Power of Habit*

(You may access electronic copies of these two from Wesley Library)

c. Vogel, Dwight W., OSL, [*Food for Pilgrims*](https://oslpublications.org/)*: A Journey with St. Luke*

(please support the publishers, Order of St. Luke through this link)

**Required Reference**

1. *United Methodist Book of Worship* If you don’t own a copy, please buy one
2. [By Water and the Spirit](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text) – download and print out
3. [This Holy Mystery](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion) – download and print out
4. Taylor Burton-Edwards [*Living into the Mystery*](https://store.upperroom.org/product/living-into-the-mystery)*: A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion*

**The video lessons in this course are presented in a specific order. Please do not jump ahead and do work before you’ve watched the videos (and read the relevant books and documents). The written work is meant to show how you are integrating the ideas presented in this class into your work planning and leading worship with your specific congregation.**

**Program Schedule**

**Prelude**

* Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – Fill in Basic Info Google Doc [here](https://forms.gle/yA6masqbWgfaTKSH9). This is Assignment #1.
* Wednesday, February 8, 2022 turn in second 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. This is Assignment #2.
* Sign up for the Safe Harbor Discord server using the link Sarah sends you upon completing the Basic Info Google Doc
* Sign up to meet with Sarah [one-on-one](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tEhtw4Ims8hxtVl6sJPhynW9uiomvrjwi_KDRC4iWzQ/edit?usp=sharing) for a few minutes to get oriented to the course.

**Part 1**

* **Safe Harbor Groups** You will be formed into small groups of 3 called Safe Harbor Groups, and have an introductory meeting between February 1 and 5. You will then meet by video through the Safe Harbor Discord Server (or phone conference if necessary) for 30 minutes at a mutually agreed upon time each week starting February 6. The group may change the time from week to week, or skip a week and meet twice the next (to accommodate vacations) but please make every effort to meet for 30 minutes on each topic.
* **Teaching Videos** Each week watch the teaching videos on your own before your group meets.
* **Meet in your Safe Harbor group** to share how the videos connect to your understanding and ministry setting, and pray for one another.
* **Sarah (the Cyber Circuit Rider) will meet** with each group the first week, and rotate over the groups in subsequent weeks.
* Part 1 Assignments #3-5a due by noon March 10
* Drop in and talk with Sarah in the Safe Harbor Parlor during office hours as needed Times: TBA
* The class will also be formed into small groups to prepare presentations of the Ruth, Smith and Vogel books. You will meet with others who are reading your book to plan the presentations.
* **Friday March 10, 2023** **1-3 pm ZOOM**
  + 1:00 p.m. – Worship and meet and greet
  + 1:30 p.m. – Student Presentation of Ruth, Smith and Vogel books
  + 1:50 – p.m. Bio Break
  + 2:00 - 3:00– Baptismal Tai Chi together and discussion of videos Part I and any questions you have so far

**Part II**

* Watch Part II videos before writing assignments due by Noon April 14
* Continue to meet for at least 30 minutes weekly in you Safe Harbor Groups to discuss the videos, and pray for one another.
* Drop in and talk with Sarah in the Safe Harbor Parlor during office hours as needed Times: TBA
* **Friday April 14, 2023 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

**Assignment Instructions**

* Please read the related texts and watch the videos before writing the following assignments. Writing is a great way to help your brain process new ideas and connect them to what you already know.
* Assignments 3 - 5 part 1 are due at noon on March 10 via Blackboard.
* Assignments 5 part 2 - 10 are due at noon on April 14 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, and apply to your particular ministry setting 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 give thoughtful answers and do not go over more than a page so the instructor has time to carefully read and respond to what everyone writes.

**Assignments**

1. [Basic Information form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczopojxJ3XH_xBT15i2DOg-GbrWQeaOtXkRgsiztuJ2WUjuQ/viewform?usp=sf_link). Please use this link and fill out the Google form as soon as you register for the course.
2. **What You Want to Learn From this Course** DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS OR WATCH THE VIDEOS. Write a letter called “Why I deserve an A” dated April 14. Imagine yourself in the future and describe what you have learned and accomplished in this course. Be sure to name actual quandaries you currently have about United Methodist worship; issues that have come up for you and/or your congregation(s) since you began your pastoral ministry. What do you hope to better understand? What questions do you, or your congregation members have about:
   1. Attending to the liturgical year
   2. Administering Baptism and Holy Communion
   3. Conducting funerals
   4. Conducting weddings (2 pages)

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

1. **Become a Book of Worship Trivia Champ** Review the table of contents of the BOW, read all of the introductions to each section, 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 10 at noon)
2. **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 Friday March 10. Choose 1-2 prayers to post on Blackboard by noon Friday March 10.
3. **Writing and Analyzing Liturgy**

**Part 1**

* 1. Watch the three videos in Lesson V Eucharist
  2. Carefully read pages 33-80 of the *Book of Worship*, *This Holy Mystery,* and *Living Into the Mystery*.
  3. Then read the Open Source Liturgy Project Document and Rubric:
* Open Source Eucharist for Local Pastors
* Open Source Eucharist Core
  1. Read [*A Native American Celebration of Holy Communion*](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-native-american-celebration-of-holy-communion)
  2. Read [*Breaking Bread Behind the Wall*](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/breaking-bread-behind-the-wall-a-prison-communion-liturgy)
  3. Read [*Holy Communion at the End of an Appointment*](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/holy-communion-at-the-end-of-an-appointment)
  4. Then put together a whole worship service for your congregation. 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 Eucharist core) for one of the following contexts.
     1. The birthday celebration of a parishioner who has turned 100 (or another milestone)
     2. Peace with Justice Sunday June 4, 2023
     3. The dedication of actual lay ministers 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!*

* 1. Let Sarah know which of these you have picked by Wednesday, March 1, 2023.
  2. Turn in this bulletin on March 10 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 10)

**Part 2**

* 1. Using the videos for Part I, readings, class discussions and information offered by the Open Source Liturgy Project, and the Evaluation Checklist:

evaluate your class-mate’s worship service with communion liturgy. Does the worship follow the Basic Pattern as described in Hickman? 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)

1. **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 all of the videos and what you have learned about 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 the class, including Smith, Ruth or Vogel that will shape your future worship leadership? (4 pages)
2. **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. This person 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).
3. **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)
4. **If you only knew then what you knew now….** Save this for last. 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)

**4.b 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. The remaining exercises should be completed by noon Friday April 14. Choose 1-2 prayer to post on Blackboard by Noon April 14.