**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study**

**CS 223 Worship and Sacraments Summer 2024**

**Online Asynchronous Videos**

**and**

**Mandatory Zoom Meetings**

**Monday June 3, 1:00-2:00 pm**

**Monday-Friday July 15-19, 8:00-10:45 am**

**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 designer of and 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 of Word and Table with attention to flow, 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. Teresa J. Stewart, *The Small Church Advantage: Seven Powerful Worship Practices that Work Best in Small Settings*
3. Ruth, Lester *Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship*

(You may access electronic copy of this from Wesley Library)

**Optional Reading**

Smith, James K. A. *You are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*

Vogel, Dwight W., OSL, *Food for Pilgrims: A Journey with St. Luke*

Mount Elewononi, Sarah. Baptism Tai Chi. [*Doxology*](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yHWkUGjOWcjNXTTeIJTx4Un8PhphvPQO/view) 24:3 p. 5-21

**Required Reference**

1. *United Methodist Book of Worship* If you don’t own a copy, please buy one
2. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
3. [By Water and the Spirit](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text) – download and print out
4. [This Holy Mystery](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion) – download and print out
5. 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 write anything before you’ve watched the videos (and read the relevant books and documents).**

**Small group discussion is an important aspect of this course. You will be matched with 1-2 other students with whom you will discuss the videos, and hold one another in prayer outside of our Zoom meetings.**

**The written assignments are meant help you integrate the ideas presented in this class into your pastoral work of planning and leading worship with your specific congregation.**

**Program Schedule**

**Prelude**

* **Assignment #1** As soon as you register, please fill in his Basic Info Google Doc [here](https://forms.gle/v3RY6mDtEpz58c418).

[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.

* **Assignment #2** Due: Monday, June 3, 2024 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.

**What You Want to Learn From this Course** DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS OR WATCH ANY VIDEOS. Write a letter to me describing what you hope to learn in this course. You have likely been leading worship for quite a while already. Discuss 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 (Due Monday, June 3 - 2 pages)

*This assignment is meant to help me cover these topics in our time together.*

* **Attend the orientation meeting for the course on Zoom on June 3, 2024 at 1 p.m. EST**

**Part 1**

* **Safe Harbor Groups** You will be formed into small groups of 2 or 3 called Safe Harbor Groups. You will then meet (using Zoom, another video conference or phone conference) for 30 minutes at a mutually agreed upon time each week starting June 7. 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 recorded lesson.
* **Teaching Videos** 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.

**Part II**

*The Zoom meetings from 8-10:45 on July 15-19 will include interactive learning activities and discussion of the material we have read.*

**Assignments**

**Assignment #3 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 (*red italics*). Make note of any questions you have and be sure to ask Sarah by email. Take the BOW trivia quiz found on Blackboard. You may use your BOW while answering the quiz. (Due July 5)

**Assignment #4 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. Post a couple of your favorite original prayers that you wrote with Stookey’s guidance, clearly indicating which exercise in the book that they come from on Blackboard by July 12.

**Assignment #5 Writing Liturgy**

This assignment is an opportunity to integrate several elements of the class. You will demonstrate how you use the Basic Pattern of United Methodist Worship, incorporating flow from beginning to end, and you will create your own custom Great Thanksgiving according to the teachings of This Holy Mystery. To guide you in this I have provided a template for the great Thanksgiving. You are to add words at the sections in red, to connect this service of the Table with the words/themes you have been preaching.

In Assignment 6 you will evaluate a fellow student’s work based and a fellow student will evaluate yours, with the purpose of improvement so that you actually can use this worship service with your appointed congregation(s).

Even though you may not all be lectionary preachers, I have chosen one Special Sunday (Human Relations Day – January 19, 2025) with the lectionary texts that go with that day. - Isaiah 62:1-5 - Psalm 36:5-10 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 - John 2:1-11

While you may think of other scripture to go with Human Relations Sunday 2025, I ask that you stick with these assigned lectionary texts to ease the process of evaluation (then I don’t have to look up and consider 10 different sets of scripture).

Processes

Watch the videos on Eucharist

Carefully read pages 33-80 of the Book of Worship, This Holy Mystery, Living Into the Mystery, Worshipping with United Methodists and Flow

You may also find it helpful to study the Great Thanksgivings p. 54-79 in the BOW and notice what changes and what remains the same. Other examples of custom Great Thanksgivings developed with the “core” include:

Develop a worship service of word and table for Human Relations Sunday, January 19, 2025 to be use in your congregation following these steps:

1. Prayerfully consider one or more of these lectionary texts for that day, listening for God’s word of grace to your particular congregation as it relates to Human Relations. Isaiah 62:1-5 - Psalm 36:5-10 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 - John 2:1-11

2. According to these scriptures, what is God doing for your congregation toward their experience of salvation that connects to human relations? What is God inviting them (and you too) to do? As you begin this paper, write a paragraph about your context and how this message connects specifically to your setting. Make sure this is included in the material you submit to me and your partner.

3. Summarize the theme of your sermon/worship service in one sentence. This is what you hope each of the members of your congregation will come away from worship thinking about and acting upon as you send them forth. Make sure this is included in the material you submit to me and your partner.

4. Create an order of worship using the Basic Pattern and doing your best to let your sentence/theme from # 3 flow through each act of worship. Label each section: Gathering, Word, Response, Eucharist, Sending Forth. Choose which ever music in the UMH/ TFWS or other Contemporary music is fitting for your congregation. If it’s not in the UMH TFWS please provide the lyrics. If your congregation uses a bulletin feel free to put this order into the bulletin and submit it. If not, just list the acts of worship in a document. Include the specific words of prayers and responsive readings.

5. Customize the Great Thanksgiving for this service highlighting the theme that flows through scripture, your sermon, the prayers and music with repeated words or phrases

Be ready to submit your:

order of worship – all the words of prayers, responsive readings, your custom Great Thanksgiving, benediction

In a separate document

State the sentence you want people to remember at the end of worship,

Offer a description of your congregation’s context

a summary of your sermon

why you chose each particular prayer, hymn/song, etc.

If this service deviates from the Basic Pattern for some pastoral reason, please note this and explain.

We will discuss this assignment on July 18.

You may wait to turn in your order of worship on July 24. Post it to Blackboard, send a copy to your partner.

**Assignment #6 Analyzing Liturgy**

You will be given another student’s worship service from assignment 5 and asked to evaluate it based on the specific criteria presented in this course – with the intent of making your colleagues work stronger. Your work from Assignment 5 will also be critiqued by a fellow student.

**Assignment #7 Worship as Spiritual Formation**

A major theme of this course and By Water and the Spirit is that Baptism and Confirmation are not just worship services, they are meat to mark an investment in time on the part of the congregation and the individual to the ongoing work of Spiritual Formation. In this paper you will discuss how these ideas are influencing your practice of ministry and work as a pastor.

**Assignment # 8 Plan and Lead One Worship Service for Class**

Each day that we meet together on Zoom I am planning for the last 45 minutes to be a time for us to worship together. And though I will take the first day, you are all perfectly capable of planning and leading too.

You are already in a group of 2 or 3 students. Please work on this assignment together in those groups. Consult the Google doc here which designates the topic and scripture for the day. Your group can negotiate with the others so that each group takes one worship time. In your group prepare a service to be used for the last 45 minutes of our class time. Include at least:

1) one act of worship for gathering us (centering us, helping us to become mindful of God's presence after 2 hours of class time)

2) present the assigned scripture (you may add others that go with the theme) and may offer a message (brief sermon) if the Spirit moves you,

3) provide a way for us to respond to the Word that is related to the theme (see instructions on the Google doc)

4) an act of worship that sends us forth into the remainder of the day.

Aim for a good flow of the worship service using best practices for on-line worship.

The group who chooses baptism will help us remember our baptisms, whose who choose Eucharist will lead us in Holy Communion, Thursday's group will help each of us respond according to where we are along the Way of Salvation, and Friday's group will lead us in a love feast.

Feel free to use hymns or praise songs, prayers, music, artwork (sharing your screen), get us to move or speak, be creative. Unlike most Sunday mornings, this is a great setting to be playful and explore the possibilities. We will be recording this - just for the class to review - but it will not be "broadcast" so you don't need to worry as much about licensing/copyright...as when you broadcast your services over the internet.

**Assignment #9 What Have You Learned?**  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)