

## CMC 2025 Fall: Missional Worship & Preaching

- **Instructor:** Dr. Lordwin Jae Y. Lim  
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- **Course Description:** This course explores the dynamic relationship between worship, preaching, and the missional calling of the church in contemporary society. Drawing on biblical, theological, and practical insights, students will examine how congregational worship and preaching can foster communal participation in the Spirit, leading to individual transformation, ecclesial formation, and social incorporation for the sake of God's reign in the world. The course emphasizes a balanced understanding of divine and human agency in proclamation in worship and explores participatory liturgical/homiletical approaches.
- **Learning Objectives:** The church's worship and preaching are the platform of God's mission, sending believers into the field of life so that they can live as worshippers and preachers of the gospel in the world. The purpose of this course is to equip the intercultural ministries candidates with a theology of communal and participatory worship and preaching to equip the whole church for all believers to live a missional life in various ministries and worship contexts. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
  - Articulate a theological understanding of missional worship and missional preaching.
  - Analyze the biblical and historical foundations for communal participation in preaching.
  - Evaluate contemporary homiletical theories and practices that emphasize the Spirit's role and congregational involvement.
  - Design and deliver sermons that encourage active communal participation and contribute to the church's missional engagement.
  - Reflect on the implications of missional worship and preaching for a missional life.
- **Assessment:** Reflection Papers 30%, Final Paper 30%, Presentation 40%
- **Required Texts**

Lim, Lordwin. *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church*. (Ph. D. Thesis).

Meyers, Ruth A. *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission: Shaping Community for the Sake of the World*. Eerdmans, 2014.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Great Story, the Great Commission: Reading the Bible Missiologically*. Baker Academic, 2023.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Zondervan, 2010.

- **Course Structure and Methodology**

Each week will follow a consistent three-stage format:

**Pre-learning:** Students will engage with assigned readings and prepare for the weekly practicum. This stage includes submitting two weekly reports.

**Experiential Practicum:** 1-2 students or teams will lead a 3-minute Gospel preaching or a 10-minute worship practicum. This hands-on experience will be followed by specific and constructive feedback from the instructor and peers.

**Deep Dive & Discussion:** The instructor will provide in-depth lectures on the weekly core perspective, drawing heavily from the required textbooks. This segment will include robust discussion questions and case studies to deepen learning.

- **Weekly Schedule:** Wednesday 7:30-10 pm

**Part 1: Missional Theology and the Missional Church** (Laying the Foundation)

**Week 1**(Sep. 17, 2025): Understanding and Importance of Missional Theology (Core Perspective: Biblical)

- Pre-learning: Guidance for next week's practicum; distribution of preparation materials (e.g., 'missional gospel preaching' resources); Detailed orientation for all course assignments.
- Lecture & Discussion: Concepts and historical development of Missional Theology (*Missio Dei*); God's nature and work as revealed in the Bible; The missional narrative flowing through the Old and New Testaments; Emphasizing that 'mission' is not an auxiliary activity of the church but an essential work of God.
- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Part 1: "Missio Dei and Missional Worship" (for a general overview).
- Goal: Understand the course's overall direction and grasp the biblical roots of missional theology.

**Week 2**(Sep. 24, 2025): Missional Ecclesiology: The Essence and Mission of the Church (Core Perspective: Gospel)

- Pre-learning: Meditation on scripture; Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum; Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 1 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit "Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching" Report (1st entry).
- Practicum (Student-Led): 3-Minute Gospel Preaching (Biblical Foundation).
- Lecture & Discussion: Re-examining biblical ecclesiology; The church's identity as a community 'sent out' into the world; The church exists because of the gospel and is sent into the world to proclaim the gospel.

- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Chapter 2: “Sent in Worship: Missional Identity.”

- Goal: Clearly define the church’s reason for existence and purpose from a gospel perspective and attempt practical gospel preaching.

**Week 3(Oct. 1, 2025): Cultural Understanding and Contextualization: Essential Elements of Mission** (Core Perspective: Creative/Emergent)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials and brainstorming for next week’s practicum (Prayer of Sending); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 2 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit “Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching” Report (2nd entry).

- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Prayer of Sending).

- Lecture & Discussion: Understanding contemporary society and culture; The importance of contextualization of the gospel; Creative methodologies for effectively delivering the gospel in diverse cultural backgrounds.

- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Chapter 3: “Worship that Enters Culture.”

- Goal: Understand the world we face today, recognize that the gospel must be delivered creatively in the language of the world, and experience a missional sending prayer.

**Part 2: Understanding and Practice of Missional Worship** (Perspective Focus)

**Week 4(Oct. 8, 2025): The Missional Nature of Worship: What is Missional Worship?** (Core Perspective: Biblical)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week’s practicum (3-minute Gospel Preaching - Cultural Contextualization); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 3 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit “Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching” Report (3rd entry).

- Practicum (Student-Led): 3-Minute Gospel Preaching (Cultural Contextualization).

- Lecture & Discussion: The nature and purpose of worship as revealed in the Bible, and the missional flow contained within it (e.g., the Gentile court in the temple, Jesus’ sending command linked to worship); Emphasizing that worship is God-centered.

- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Chapter 1: “Foundations for Missional Worship” (in-depth reading).

- Goal: Realize that worship is not merely a ritual but a setting that bestows a missional mandate on a biblical foundation.

**Week 5(Oct. 15, 2025): Gospel-Centered Worship: Experiencing Grace and Sending**  
(Core Perspective: Gospel)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum (Reconstruction of Biblical Worship Elements); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 4 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit "Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching" Report (4th entry).
- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Reconstruction of Biblical Worship Elements).
- Lecture & Discussion: Understanding that through worship, the grace of the gospel is deeply experienced, and this grace is transformed into missional energy for the world; How worship equips believers to be witnesses of the gospel.
- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Chapter 4: "Changing Lives, Changing World."
- Goal: Help worship become gospel-centered, and ensure the power of the gospel leads to believers' lives and mission through worship.

**Week 6(Oct. 22, 2025): Creative Worship Design: New Forms and Sensibilities** (Core Perspective: Creative/Emergent)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum (Missional Meaning of Communion); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 5 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit "Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching" Report (5th entry).
- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Missional Meaning of Communion).
- Lecture & Discussion: Experimenting with new and creative forms for worship to effectively convey the missional message in contemporary culture; Utilization of worship space, media, arts, and performance.
- Textbook Link: Ruth Meyers, *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* Chapter 5: "Worship that Crosses Boundaries."
- Goal: Explore creative worship design methods for effectively delivering the gospel in a rapidly changing world.

**Week 7(Oct. 29, 2025): Communal Participatory Worship: The Worship of All Believers**  
(Core Perspective: Communal Participation)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum (Creative Worship Sequence Planning); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week

6 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit “Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching” Report (6th entry).

- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Creative Worship Sequence Planning).
- Lecture & Discussion: Strategies for worship to become a communal act where all believers actively participate and recognize their missional mandate, rather than just being spectators; The role of congregational prayer, communal confession, and service teams.
- Textbook Link: Lordwin Lim, *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church* CHAPTER 1. Pauline Vision of the Body of Christ in the Spirit.
- Goal: Help worship be achieved through the active participation of all believers, thereby strengthening the community’s missional capacity.

### **Part 3: Understanding and Practice of Missional Preaching (Perspective Focus)**

**Week 8**(Nov.5, 2025): **Biblical Foundations of Missional Preaching** (Core Perspective: Biblical)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week’s practicum (Participatory Worship Sequence); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 7 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit “Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching” Report (7th entry).
- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Participatory Worship Sequence).
- Lecture & Discussion: The nature and purpose of preaching as revealed in the Bible; Learning missional orientations from the preaching styles of Jesus and the Apostles.
- Textbook Link: Lordwin Lim, *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church* CHAPTER 2. John Calvin’s Spirit-centered Understanding of Christian Preaching.
- Goal: Understand that preaching is not merely the transmission of biblical knowledge but a call to a missional life based on biblical principles.

**Week 9**(Nov. 12, 2025): **Gospel-Centered Preaching: Proclaiming a Life-Giving Message** (Core Perspective: Gospel)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week’s practicum (3-minute Gospel Preaching - Biblical Exegesis); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 8 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit “Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching” Report (8th entry).
- Practicum (Student-Led): 3-Minute Gospel Preaching (Biblical Exegesis).

- Lecture & Discussion: Understanding that preaching serves as a channel through which the power of the gospel is proclaimed, bringing transformation to listeners' lives; Methods for effectively conveying the core of the gospel to prompt listeners to make decisions and respond.

- Textbook Link: Lordwin Lim, *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church* CHAPTER 3. Michael Welker's Postmodern Pneumatology for Christian Proclamation.

- Goal: Help the life-giving power of the gospel be clearly delivered through preaching, leading listeners to experience life transformation.

**Week 10**(Nov. 19, 2025): **The Art of Creative Preaching: Communication and Empathy** (Core Perspective: Creative/Emergent)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum (3-minute Gospel Preaching - Emphasizing Life Transformation); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 9 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit "Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching" Report (9th entry).

- Practicum (Student-Led): 3-Minute Gospel Preaching (Emphasizing Life Transformation).

- Lecture & Discussion: Creative preaching techniques that utilize new and empathetic language and delivery methods to resonate with and elicit responses from contemporary audiences; Use of multimedia, storytelling, and audience interaction.

- Textbook Link: Lordwin Lim, *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church* CHAPTER 4. Preaching as Communal Participation in the Spirit since 1960s.

- Goal: Learn creative preaching techniques and communication methods for effectively delivering the gospel in a rapidly changing world.

**Week 11**(Nov. 26, 2025): **Communal Preaching-The Word Leading to Communication and Life** (Core Perspective: Communal Participation)

- Pre-learning: Distribution of preparation materials for next week's practicum (3-minute Gospel Preaching - Creative Delivery); Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 10 content); Weekly Assignment: Submit "Understanding and Definition of Missional Worship and Missional Preaching" Report (10th entry).

- Practicum (Student-Led): 3-Minute Gospel Preaching (Creative Delivery).

- Lecture & Discussion: Preaching methods that strengthen communal communication, such as small group discussions, Q&A sessions, and sharing life applications after the sermon;

Leadership that helps preaching lead to the spiritual growth and missional practice of the entire community.

- Textbook Link: Lordwin Lim, *A Homiletic of Communal Participation in the Spirit for the Contemporary Church* CHAPTER 5. Preaching of Communal Participation in a Changing Context.
- Goal: Help preaching transcend individual spiritual benefit to strengthen the entire community's missional capacity and enable the Word to be practiced in daily life.

#### **Part 4: Integration and Application: Towards a Missional Community (1 Week)**

##### **Week 12(Dec. 3, 2025): Integration of Missional Worship and Preaching, and Future Vision**

- Pre-learning: Weekly Assignment: Submit Reflection Report (based on Week 11 content); Final Report Preparation: Guidance for writing the final report, "My Journey Towards Missional Worship & Missional Preaching," and announcement of the final submission deadline.
- Practicum (Student-Led): 10-Minute Worship Practicum (Post-Sermon Sharing/Application).
- Lecture & Discussion: Comprehensive review of the past 11 weeks' learning and reconfirmation of key insights; How worship and preaching are organically connected to strengthen the church's missional vision; Sharing each participant's vision for missional worship and preaching, and suggestions for continuous learning and growth.
- Textbook Link: Discussion based on the comprehensive insights from both textbooks, focusing on the church's vision for missional mandate.
- Goal: Integrate learned content and prepare a concrete roadmap for practicing missional worship and preaching in their respective ministries.

\*We look forward to an enriching and transformative semester as we explore the vital intersection of missional worship and preaching! We may have a one-week break depending on the students' need.