"The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel."

Semester, Year	WINTER, 2026
Course Title	**WORSHIP: LITURGY AND LIFE**
Course Code	**PAST 0546 1S**
Date **Time** **Delivery Format**	JANUARY 15 – APRIL 9, 2026 **EVERY THURSDAY** 6:45 to 9:35 PM SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
Class information	The classes will be livestreamed on Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:35 PM.
Instructor	**CHARLES LEE, DPT** Email: charleslee@tyndale.ca
Office Hours	Before each class starts, I will come on-line at 6:30 PM for 15 minutes of conversation. Feel free to join me! After each class, I will stay online to answer questions. You can also email me to set up time for an individual appointment.
Course Materials	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a framework for thinking together about vital and faithful Christian worship by: exploring the biblical and theological foundations of worship; reviewing the ways the church's praise has been shaped over the centuries; and analyzing today's worship spectrum. Key elements in the practice and leadership of worship will be explored, including the order of worship, the role of prayer and music, and models of collaborative worship planning.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a Christian theology of worship rooted in a biblical foundation and grounded in a Christian understanding of the Triune God.
2. Analyze a conflict related to the context of worship, identify some of the reasons for that conflict, and suggest appropriate responses for the setting.
3. Explain the rationale of the historic fourfold order of Christian worship and assess its usefulness to their own ecclesial context.
4. Demonstrate the ability to plan a worship service that is theologically coherent and culturally relevant, using the historic fourfold order of worship.
5. Describe the transformative power of specific worship practices in the formation of missionally oriented and culturally aware Christian disciples within diverse contexts.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Cherry, Constance. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. (ISBN 978-0801038747)

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996. (ISBN 978-0830818952)

Van Opstal, Sandra Maria. *The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a Diverse World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2016. (ISBN 978-0830841295)

Other Resources will be posted on class webpage under appropriate date.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends STEPBible – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other online resources for Biblical Studies.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Livestream Class Participation and Forum Discussions: 10% of final grade.
"Blessed is the student who invests the time necessary to read assigned texts in advance of class, who listens respectfully to the professor and other students in order to engage with questions and comments during class, and who takes time to reflect and interact with the Tyndale community after class!" As you read, make note of questions, thoughts, and observations to better contribute to class discussions.

Basis of Grade: This mark will reflect attendance, in-class engagement (often in small break out groups), and occasional forums for interaction where you will engage with course readings and lectures. In terms of attendance, every absence or lateness will lower your grade and more than 3 unexcused absences are grounds for course failure. See the Academic Calendar for the excused absence policy.

Forums emerge from discussion group questions assigned in class. On five occasions, the student will submit a 150 to 200 words response to interact with a question introduced in class and put on the class webpage. The purpose of the forum is to connect class material to the student's own experience and encourages the student to offer one question that emerged from reflection course readings or the lecture or small group discussion or to develop a prayer and introduction that might be appropriate in a particular setting. (Forums are marked as Pass/Fail). This requirement is relevant to all outcomes.

2. Theological Foundations of Worship: 25% of final grade.
Length: 6-8 pages
Due Date: February 12, 2026

Interacting with James Torrance (Intro, Chapters 1-3) and Constance Cherry (Chapters 1-2), discuss the theological foundations of worship. In 5-6 pages, explain what we mean when we say worship is Trinitarian and Christocentric in nature. Considering your theological analysis concerning Trinitarian and Christocentric worship, what are the implications for your congregation (a further 1-2 pages)?

Basis of Grade: All papers will be 12-font, double spaced with 1-inch margins (see below, H. General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work). For most of the paper (6 pages), focus on describing the Trinitarian foundation of worship. Provide a thesis with clear argumentation. Then discuss implications (1-2 pages) of that understanding for your own congregation. This requirement is relevant to outcome 1.

3. Case Study on Worship Conflict: 25% of final grade.
Length: 6-8 pages
Due Date: March 19, 2026

A case study involving a conflict concerning an aspect of worship will be posted on the class web page. Read through and analyze the conflict. In your analysis, the primary goal is *not* to solve the case study. Rather, **you are to identify the different issues at play** (utilizing texts and class lecture material) and to **anticipate potential consequences**. (The marked and returned case studies will be discussed in class to encourage further learning. Thus, this due date will remain firm).

Basis of Grade: You will be graded on the clarity with which you identify the issues and evaluate the potential consequences within the worship conflict scenario. This requirement is relevant to outcome 2.

4. Final Summative Worship Paper: 40% of final grade.
Length: 12-14 pages
Due Date: April 16, 2026

The final Summative Worship Paper includes two components.

In the <u>first</u> part (approximately 6-8 pages), reflect on what you have learned this term by exploring your deepest convictions about the theology and practice of corporate worship and its implications for discipleship, mission, and cultural connection. You should have a minimum of 12 footnotes in this section, from a minimum of six sources. Interact with Cherry, Torrance, Van Opstal, Foster, Smith, and other relevant authors.

In the <u>second</u> part (approximately 6 pages), create an annotated worship service that is theologically sound and culturally relevant. Use the historic fourfold worship order discussed by Cherry as the backbone of the service you create. Your service should include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Using footnotes or annotations, be sure to explain the theological rationale and the practical purpose for each element in the worship service. Make sure that you are clear about <u>what</u> you are doing in the worship service (be as detailed and specific as possible), <u>when</u> you are doing that action, <u>how</u> you are doing the action (e.g. are the people standing, sitting, kneeling, dancing?)

Basis of Grade: Be sure to include both components in your final Summative Worship Paper. Reflect on our readings, classroom discussions, your own understanding of spirituality and worship, and the characteristics of your congregation. This requirement is relevant to outcomes 1,3,4,5.

Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:
   - An introduction and a straightforward line of argumentation
   - A thesis statement for the research essay
   - Evidence of research without over-reliance on any one source
   - Willingness to examine and be critical of your own views
   - Creativity

2. Unless otherwise indicated, full sentences and paragraphs are assumed in Times New Roman, Font 12 pt, with 1-inch margins. There should be no extra spaces between

paragraphs, instead a new paragraph should be indented. The number of pages listed does not include the title page or a bibliography.

3. Footnotes are to be included in the works rather than endnotes. Appropriate use of reference material in Chicago citation style for footnotes and bibliography.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	%
1. Livestream Participation and Forums	Weekly	10 %
2. Theological Foundations of Worship Paper	Feb 12	25 %
3. Case Study on Worship Conflict	Mar 19	25 %
4. Final Summative Paper	Apr 16	40 %
Total Grade		**100%**

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1 (January 15): Introduction: What is worship? What is liturgy? What assumptions about worship influence our perspectives? We will also work through the course syllabus.
Read: Torrance, Introduction

Week 2 (January 22): Presence of the Triune God in life and worship -- Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit: the two hands of worship
Read: James Torrance, Chapter 1-2
Constance Cherry, Chapters 1-2

Week 3 (January 29): The Worshipping Community -- Baptism and the Lord's Supper
Read: Torrance, Chapter 3

Week 4 (February 5): Fourfold Pattern of Worship
Read: Cherry, Chapters 3-8

Week 5 (February 12): Sacred Words – Prayer and Music
Read: Cherry, Chapters 9-11
DUE on February 12 (at 11:59 pm): Assignment 2 Theological Foundations of Worship

FEBRUARY 19 – Reading Days, NO CLASS. Enjoy your break!

Week 6 (February 26): Sacred Time – Seasons of Year and Seasons of Life
Read: Cherry, Chapters 12-15

Week 7 (March 5): Sacred Space – Importance of Place and Context
Read: Smith, Chapter 1 (on course resource page)
Van Opstal, Chapters 1-2

Week 8 (March 12): Worship and Diversity (culture and more) -- the Discomfort of Worship
Read: Van Opstal, Chapters 3-4

Week 9 (March 19): Worship and Formation through Song and Practice
Read: Van Opstal, Chapters 5-6
DUE on March 19 (at 11:59pm): **Assignment 3 Case Study on Worship Conflict**

Week 10 (March 26): Worship and Discipleship – Tradition and Change
Read: Van Opstal, Chapters 7-8

Week 11 (April 2): Worship's Wider Dimensions – the spirituality of worship, discussion of case study assignment
Read: Richard Foster*, Streams of Living Water,* Chapter 1, on course resource page

Week 12 (April 9): Lived Doxology – eschatological realities of worship, missional witness and the relationship between worship and mission
Read: Draper, "Lived Doxology," on course resource page

DUE on April 16 (one week after class at 11:59 pm): **Assignment 4 Summative Worship Paper**

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Avis, Paul. *A Church Drawing Near: Spirituality and Mission in a Post Christian Culture*. London: T&T Clark Ltd, 2003.

Benedict, Daniel and Craig Miller. *Contemporary Worship for the 21st Century: Worship or Evangelism?* Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 1995.

Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

Byars, Ronald. *Christian Worship: Glorifying and Enjoying God*. Louisville, TN: Geneva, 2000.

Carson, D.A., (ed.). *Worship by the Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape our Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Cherry, Constance. M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Chester, Tim. *Truth We Can Touch: How Baptism and Communion Shape Our Lives.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Cosper, Mike. *Rhythms of Grace: How the Church's Worship Tells the Story of the Gospel.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

Davies, J. G. *Worship and Mission*. New York: Association Press, 1967.

Dawn, Marva. *A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being the Church for the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

_____. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turn-of-the-Century Culture.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Ferguson, Everett. "How We Christians Worship", *Christian History*, 37: Worship in the Early Church, 1993. (translation and commentary on Justin Martyr's First Apology, 67)

Foster, Richard. *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of the Christian Faith*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.

Guthrie, Steven. "The Wisdom of Song." In *Resonant Witness: Conversations between Music and Theology,* edited by Jeremy Begbie and Steven Guthrie, 382–407. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.

Jacobs, Alan. "Do-It-Yourself Tradition." First Things, January 1, 2009. https://firstthings.com/do-it-yourself-tradition/.

Kapic, Kelly M. *Communion with God: The Divine and the Human in the Theology of John Owen.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Kreider, Alan, and Eleanor Kreider, *Worship and Mission after Christendom.* Colorado Springs: Paternoster, 2009.

Kauflin, Bob. *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Lilley, A.L. *Worship: Its Necessity, Nature and Expression*. London: Student Christian Movement, 1926.

Lomax, Tim and Michael Moynaugh. *Liquid Worship*. Cambridge: Grove, 2004.

Meyers, Ruth A. *Missional Worship Worshipful Mission: Gathering as God's People, Going out in God's Name*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Morgenthaler, Sally. *Worship Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1992.

Plantinga, Cornelius Jr. and Sue A. Rozenboom. *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking About Christian Worship Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

Purves, Andrew. "'I yet not I but Christ:' Galatians 2:20 and the Christian Life in the Theology of T. F. Torrance." Paper, Annual Meeting of the T.F. Torrance Theological Fellowship, November 17, 2005. http://www.tftorrance.org/meetings/purveslecture11-05.pdf

_____. *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology: A Christological Foundation.* Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2004.

Schattauer, Thomas H. *InsideOut: Worship in an Age of Mission*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1999.

Segler, Franklin and Randall Bradley. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. Third Edition. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2006.

Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

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Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996.

Tyra, Gary. *The Holy Spirit in Mission: Prophetic Speech and Action in Christian Witness*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.

Vander Zee, Leonard J. *Christ, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper: Recovering the Sacraments for Evangelical Worship*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004.

Vann, Jane Rogers. *Worship Matters: A Study for Congregations*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Von Allmen, J.-J. *Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. London: Lutterworth, 1965.

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Wright, N.T. "Freedom and Framework, Spirit and Truth: Recovering Biblical Worship." *Studia Liturgica* 32 (2002): 176–95.

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COURSES

A. EQUITY OF ACCESS
Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the Accessibility Services at the Centre for Academic Excellence to register and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTREAM INTERACTION (*SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE ONLY*)
- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

exceptions with permission from professor

C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to "Guidelines for Interactions" on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Grading Rubric

Please consult the rubric provided for each assignment on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Academic Integrity website for further details. Students must review the policies and procedures regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) outlined in Academic Calendar and consult guidance from their course instructors.

For proper citation style, consult Citation Guides for different styles. Students are encouraged to consult Writing Services.

Students should also consult the current Academic Calendar for polices and expectations on Attendance and Classroom Expectations, Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to Turnitin, a text-matching software that ensures the originality of academic writing and verifies the proper citation of all sources. The instructor for this course will use Turnitin for assignments submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. Upon submission, you will receive a summary that includes your submitted files along with a similarity report generated by Turnitin. Please be aware that Turnitin can also detect AI-generated content from tools like Grammarly, so students should be mindful of when

using such software. It's advisable to confirm with your instructor before using any AI tools into your assignments. Below are some useful resources:

- [Student](#) Guides for Turnitin via [classes.tyndale.ca](#) course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity ([Guide](#), [Video](#), [Spectrum](#))

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board (REB)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office ([seminaryoffice@tyndale.ca](#)) before proceeding.

Late Papers and Extensions Policy

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated in the course syllabus. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course syllabus, grades for papers submitted late without an approved extension will be lowered at the rate of two-thirds of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from "A+" to "A-," from "B" to "C+"). Please note that some programs, such as cohort-based or intensive courses, may follow a different policy due to the nature of the program.

Faculty may not grant an extension beyond the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar by filling out the [Extension Request Form](#). The application will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, medical emergency, hospitalization of oneself or immediate family member or prolonged illness requiring treatment by a physician. Factors such as assignments for other courses, holidays, and technology-related difficulties are insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

A temporary grade of incomplete ("I") may be granted by the Registrar. Once an extension is granted, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work. A grade of "F" will be recorded for students who do not complete the outstanding work by the deadline.

E. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential, and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

F. LIBRARY RESOURCES

Tyndale Library supports courses with e-journals, e-books, and the mail delivery of books and circulating materials. See the Library FAQ page.

G. GRADING SYSTEM & SCALE

For each course's grading rubric, please refer to your course syllabus or classes.tyndale.ca. For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary Grading System & Scale.