



**TYNDALE**  
Seminary

**Course Syllabus  
Fall 2012**

**INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP AND LITURGY  
PAST 0546**

**September 14 to December 7, 2011  
Tuesdays 8:30 - 11:20 A.M.**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. KEVIN LIVINGSTON**  
(416) 226-6620 (ext. 2207)  
Email: [klivingston@tyndale.ca](mailto:klivingston@tyndale.ca)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 PM or by appointment

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to  
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Examines core worship issues such as the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship; twenty centuries of worship where one discovers something good can be learned from every age and tradition; the sacred actions of worship (Baptism & the Lord's Supper); services of the Christian Year; Music and the Arts in worship; styles of worship; worship and culture and the ministries of worship (Spiritual Formation, Pastoral Care and Mission).

This course provides a framework for thinking together about vital and faithful Christian worship. We begin by exploring the biblical and theological foundations of worship, as well as the ways that the church's praise has been shaped by historical and cultural forces over the centuries, leading up to the contemporary worship spectrum that exists in our day. We then examine key elements in the practice and leadership of worship, including the ordering of worship and the role of prayer and music. We conclude with an analysis of worship's wider impact in the formation of Christian disciples and look at models of collaborative worship planning.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, students should be equipped to become...

- **better worshippers** by experiencing more deeply the privilege of offering public worship to God in Christ through the Spirit.

- **better guests and hosts by** learning how to be perceptive participant-observers in the corporate worship services of other traditions; and by developing sensitivities that help them extend a hospitable welcome to guests in their own congregations.
- **better pastoral theologians** by learning how to:
  - articulate key biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship
  - develop an aptitude for careful theological reflection about worship
  - cultivate pastoral sensitivities that apply these principles wisely in their own ministry settings
  - grow in the appreciation of their own as well as other worship traditions
- **better worship leaders** who have developed basic skills in worship planning and leadership such as choosing hymns, preparing prayers and spoken introductions; and who are able to facilitate team-based planning of worship services that will honour God and nurture the believing community.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downer's Grove: IVP Books, 2007. (ISBN 978-0830833160)

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2002. (ISBN 978-0830826971)

Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009. (ISBN 978-0800662332)

#### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

##### 1. Required Reading and Class Participation

Blessed is the student who invests the necessary time to read the assigned texts in advance of class! As you read, jot down your questions and observations, which will become a part of our weekly conversation. At the end of the term, I will ask for a written statement summarizing how much of each required book was read.

##### 2. Weekly Written Assignment

Due **each week** and worth **30%** of your final grade, 2.5 points x 12 weeks. Late assignments will receive only 1 point. The length should be 1 page single spaced Times New Roman font size 12. Each weekly assignment consists of three parts (see Appendix A for a template).

**A. Write one intelligent, probing paragraph based on an observation from a worship service you've attended recently.** Be sure that it is related to something we have discussed in class; or is instructive in some way (which could be a positive or negative example); or has theological or pastoral significance (not merely about your personal taste or general human interest). This weekly assignment is designed to develop a habit of loving, inquiring attentiveness as we worship.

**B. Write one "collect" style prayer in response to a particular current event during the week or a specific Bible text.** (See John Witvliet's article "*Collective Wisdom*" at the link below for an explanation of this prayer form.) Even if you have never made use of this form of prayer, this is a helpful worship exercise (like practicing scales on a piano) that will serve as a tool to help you grow in articulating brief, meaningful and concrete prayers.

<http://www.calvin.edu/worship/worshippers/prayer/collect.php>

**C. Write two questions that arise from your reading,** along with the page numbers from the places in the reading that generated your questions.

### **3. Worship Observations and Analysis Report**

Due **Nov. 6** by 5 p.m. and worth **30%** of your final grade.

You are expected to attend and observe a Christian worship service that is culturally and theologically "foreign" to you -- for example an Orthodox liturgy if you are Baptist or a Pentecostal praise service if you are a Presbyterian. You are seeking to answer the basic questions: "If I had never been to a Christian worship service before, what would I think was going on? What would I know about the purpose of this gathering, of this community, and about the God to be met here from being present in this service of Christian worship?" (Susan White, *Foundations of Christian Worship*, p. 207). You will be given an evaluation form to help in the observation and analysis process, and suggestions for a variety of churches to visit. The report should be no more than 6 pages in length (Times New Roman font size 12, double-spaced).

### **4. Labberton Précis and Discussion**

Due on week assigned; **10%** of final grade.

Beginning with week 3, two or more students will present an assigned chapter from Mark Labberton's *The Dangerous Act of Worship*. The team will have 25 minutes to engage in two tasks:

- Summarize the key themes and respond to the assigned chapter in the Labberton book. (Up to 10 minutes)
- Develop two or three key questions/discussion points and lead the whole class in a conversation. Link Labberton's themes to practical worship and ministry issues you are facing. (Up to 15 minutes).

### **5. Annotated Worship Service (Designed Liturgy)**

Due **Dec.14** by 5 p.m. and worth **30%** of your final grade

Choose one of the following occasions for congregational worship (A Sunday during Advent, Palm-Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost Sunday or Trinity

Sunday). Prepare a complete order of service that reflects both a four-fold worship order and your own theological/ecclesial tradition, making judicious use of the insights provided in Cherry's *The Worship Architect* and other resources. The service should include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The entire worship service should be written out (excluding the sermon). Your material should be structured as follows:

- a. A brief description of your church and its context, and the theme chosen.
- b. A full "script" of the entire service, including prayers and musical elements (but not the text of the sermon).
- c. An explanation of the order, movement and narrative shape of the service, and how you believe the various elements work together to reflect the characteristics of faithful worship as detailed in Cherry's *The Worship Architect*, chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix B.
- d. A worship folder/bulletin printed as you would present it to the congregation.

### C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should also consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar/2012-2013>.

### D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Weekly written assignment	30
Worship observations and analysis	30
Labberton Précis and Discussion	10
Annotated worship service	30
Total grade	100

## IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

**Sept. 11**  
**First things**

*Read Ramshaw 1-13*

Introduction to the course and to one another  
Studying worship: the descriptive and normative tasks  
Symbols and rituals  
What is worship? What is *Christian* worship?  
Writing "Collect" prayers: an exercise

**Sept 18** *Read Peterson, 15-165*

**The "Raw Materials" of Worship (1)**

Sacred Space  
Garden, altar, tabernacle and temple  
Where do Christians find holy space?  
Sacred Actions  
Worship and the mighty acts of God  
Worship as dialogical and covenantal  
Christ the once-for-all sacrifice

**Sept 25 No Class**

**Oct. 2** *Read Peterson, 166-293; Cherry, 205-218*

**The "Raw Materials" of Worship (2)**

Sacred People  
Levites, priests, pastors and people  
Jesus our great high priest  
Sacred Time  
Daily prayer  
Weekly sabbaths/Lord's days  
Annual festivals/the church year  
Labberton Dialogue 1

**Oct. 9** *Read Cherry, 1-33; Torrance, 43-67*

**The Heart of Worship**

Proclaiming and enacting God's story  
The centrality of Jesus Christ  
Worship's trinitarian character  
Labberton Dialogue 2

**Oct. 16** *Read Ramshaw, 51-104*

**Christian Worship through the centuries**

The origins of Christian worship  
The development of the mass  
The Orthodox way  
Medieval piety: aspirations and abuses  
Labberton Dialogue 3

**Oct. 23 No Class (Reading Week)**

**Oct. 30** *Read Ramshaw, 105-141; Cherry, 219-257; and the Nairobi Statement on Worship & Culture*

## **Culture, Piety and the Current Worship Spectrum**

The Reformation era

Styles of Christian worship in the Protestant tradition

The spectrum of current worship styles

Worship and culture: abiding truths and contextual diversities

Labberton Dialogue 4

**Nov. 6** *Read Cherry, 37-83; Ramshaw, 201-216*

### **Ordering our worship to encounter God (1)**

Ways of ordering worship and the classic fourfold *ordo*

Gathering

Word

Labberton Dialogue 5

***Worship Observations and Analysis Report due by 5 p.m. Nov. 6***

**Nov. 13** *Read Cherry, 85-122*

### **Ordering our worship to encounter God (2)**

Table/response to the Word

Sending

Labberton Dialogue 6

**Nov. 20** *Read Cherry, 123-149*

### **Prayer**

The foundational role of the Psalms

Forms of prayer in public worship

Leading in prayer: essential skills

Labberton Dialogue 7

**Nov. 27** *Read Cherry, 151-204*

### **Music and Song**

What does music do?

Families of congregational song

The musical menu: soul food vs. junk food

Evaluating worship songs and making wise choices

Labberton Dialogue 8

**Dec. 4** *Read Ramshaw, 143-180*

### **Worship through the life-cycle**

Patterns of daily worship

Baptism/Christian initiation

Marriage and other rites of passage

Death and the Christian funeral

Labberton Dialogue 9

**Dec. 11** *Read Cherry, 259-275*

## **Hospitable Worship**

Making worship more participatory  
Collaborative, team-based worship planning  
A process for renewing our worship practices  
Labberton Dialogue 10

***Annotated Worship Service due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 14***

## **V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Will be available on-line on our class page*

## **APPENDIX A: How to Format Your Weekly Worship Assignment**

Weekly Written Assignment  
Introduction to Worship and Liturgy (PAST 0546)

[Your name]  
[Your box number]  
[Date]

A. Worship Service Observation Paragraph

B. "Collect"-style Prayer

C. Two questions arising from the readings (please cite the page numbers)