

*“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.”*

<b>Semester, Year</b>	FALL, 2026
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>PAST 0670 1S</b>
<b>Date</b>	From September 11 to December 4, 2026 <b>Every Friday</b>
<b>Time</b>	From 11:15 AM to 2:05 PM
<b>Delivery Format</b>	SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
<b>Class information</b>	The classes will be livestreamed on Fridays from 11:15 am to 2:05 pm.  <i>The course will follow the Undergraduate schedule with a Reading Week break following Thanksgiving. As a result, there will be no class on Friday, October 16.</i> <i>During the Seminary Reading Days (Oct 27-Nov1), the class scheduled for Friday, October 30 will be recorded and made available the following week for Seminary students.</i>
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>DR. KEN MICHELL, D.W.S.</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	Email: kmichell@tyndale.ca Tyndale Phone Number: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 2844
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment only.
<b>Course Materials</b>	Access course material at <a href="https://classes.tyndale.ca">classes.tyndale.ca</a> or other services at <a href="https://tyndaleone.ca">Tyndale One</a> . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Presents a chronological sweep of the development and practice of Christian worship. We will consider the context of Jewish worship and the beginnings of Christian worship through reflections on the biblical text and early church documents. From these beginnings, we will reflect on the development of the western and eastern catholic traditions, the worship in the reformed traditions, free church worship, Anglicanism and the worship within the evangelical movement, leading up to a consideration of trends in contemporary worship.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Demonstrate their knowledge of key scriptural texts that speak to the understanding and practice of worship.
2. Critically evaluate historical worship expressions by the story of God.
3. Identify the changing characteristics of worship as practiced throughout the history of Christian worship.
4. Synthesize the key elements of worship from the past that inform our practice of worship today.
5. Identify the key strands of Christian worship that exist across denominational boundaries.
6. Compare and contrast historical practices of Christian worship in light of contemporary worship patterns.

## **III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. REQUIRED READING**

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS**

1. A Brief History of Christian Worship  
James F. White (Abingdon Press)  
ISBN: 978-0-687-03414-7
2. Historical Foundations of Worship  
Ed. Malanie C. Ross and Mark A. Lamport (Baker Academic)  
ISBN: 978-1-5409-6252-2
3. Ancient Christian Worship  
Andrew B. McGowan (Baker Academic)  
ISBN: 978-0-8010-9787-4
4. Sacraments and Worship  
Ed. Maxwell E. Johnson (SPCK Publishing)  
ISBN: 978-0-281-06803-6

Additional articles will be posted on Moodle ([Classes.Tyndale.ca](https://classes.tyndale.ca)).

Students are expected to have completed assignments corresponding to class dates for the following classes

## **B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS**

### **Recommended Reading on the Theology of Christian Worship**

1. The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
Author: Constance M. Cherry  
ISBN: 978-1540963888
2. For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship  
Author: Daniel I. Block  
ISBN: 978-0801098567

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**

### **Class Participation (10%)**

Student participation will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4: 1 (or D): present, not disruptive; responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; 2 (or C): adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation or analysis; offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 3 (or B): good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion; 4 (or A): excellent preparation, offers analysis, synthesis and evaluation of material; contributes significantly to ongoing discussion.

Educational research reveals that maximum benefits in online instructional formats result when students take personal responsibilities to complete readings, engage actively (e.g. forums), and consciously contribute to a virtual learning community through a spirit of collaboration, openness and encouragement.

### **Presentation & Paper (15%)**

Students will write a short paper (5-6 pages) and give a verbal and visual\* presentation (10-12 mins) on ONE person from the history of Christian worship and their CONTRIBUTION. The paper and presentation should be divided into three sections:

1. Introduction of Person and Context (1 page)
  - a. Answer WHO? WHEN? WHERE?
2. Contribution to Christian Worship (3-4 pages)
  - a. Answer WHAT? WHY?
3. Conclusion (1 page)

- a. Why is this important today? (you may answer this personally or relate it to your church context)

\*Presentations must include a VISUAL component (e.g. PowerPoint or Keynote slides).

\*\*For online instruction, students may pre-record their presentations using suitable recording software. If you are pre-recording, both the visual presentation and the person presenting should be on screen. Further details are available on Moodle.

### History of Christian Worship Research Paper (30%)

Students will write a Research Paper (18-20 pages) on a topic of Christian worship and explore its development over time. Students will need to research and address a minimum of TWO POST-BIBLICAL and NON-CONTEMPORARY eras and compare and contrast their findings to the CONTEMPORARY context. The research paper will have FIVE sections:

1. Introduction (1-2 pages)
2. Non-contemporary era #1 (4-5 pages)
3. Non-contemporary era #2 (4-5 pages)
4. Relation to Contemporary era (3-4 pages)
5. Conclusion (1-2 page)

[Sections 4 and 5 may be combined]

Students will need to submit a PROPOSAL for their paper outlining their topic of interest, the two non-contemporary eras and proposed source material. Further details are available on Moodle.

### D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation/Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Class Participation	Throughout Course	10 %
MidTerm	October 23	20 %
Presentation & Paper	Paper due <b>ONE WEEK</b> after Presentation	15 %
History of Christian Worship Research Paper	November 20	30 %
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar	25 %
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

#### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Date:	Lecture:	Readings & Assignments
Sep 11	Welcome/Introductions Syllabus Expectations *Biblical Worship – Old & New Testament Practices Part 1	Webber - “Worship Does God’s Story (posted online) White – p. 9-39 McGowan – p. 1-33, 65-76, 135-146, 183-189, 217-223
Sep 18	Biblical Worship – Old & New Testament Practices Part 2	Ross/Lamport – ch1-3
Sep 25	*Early Church Part 1  - Table, Word, Baptism - Prayer, Music, Time	White – p. 40-74 McGowan – p. 33-64, 76-110, 146-182, 189-215 Johnson – p. 103-117, 177-196, 253-254, 343-351 Didache (online)
Oct 2	Early Church Part 2	McGowan – p. 224-260 Johnson – p. 117-133, 196-211, 351-360 Ross/Lamport – ch4-5
Oct 9	Early Church Part 3 <b>Student Presentation #1</b>	Ross/Lamport – ch6 <b>History of Christian Worship Research Paper PROPOSAL due</b>
Oct 16	<b>UGS READING WEEK (No Class)</b>	
Oct 23	<b>MidTerm</b> (Biblical Worship & Early Church)	<b>MidTerm</b>
Oct 30	<b>SEMINARY READING WEEK</b> (Class will be recorded to be available asynchronously the following week)  *Middle Ages Part 1 ( <b>Recorded</b> ) <b>Student Presentation #2</b>  - Table, Word, Baptism - Prayer, Music, Time	White – p. 75-103 Johnson – p. 133-155, 211-228, 254-256, 360-363 Ross/Lamport – ch8
Nov 6	Middle Ages Part 2	

Nov 13	*Reformation Part 1 <b>Student Presentation #3</b>  - Table, Word, Baptism - Prayer, Music, Time	White – p. 104-141 Johnson – p. 155-168, 228-243, 256-263, 363-368 Ross/Lamport – ch11-13
Nov 20	Reformation Part 2	<b>History of Christian Worship Research Paper DUE</b>
Nov 27	*Modern and Postmodern Part 1 <b>Student Presentation #4</b>  - Table, Word, Baptism - Prayer, Music, Time	White – p. 142-180 Johnson – p. 168-176, 244-251, 263-270, 368-370 Ross/Lamport – ch14-15
Dec 4	Modern and Postmodern Part 2	Ross/Lamport – ch16-18
<p>*In each era, we will consider the historic development of each of the following central Christian Worship elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Table</li> <li>2. The Word</li> <li>3. Initiation (Baptism)</li> <li>4. Prayer</li> <li>5. Music</li> <li>6. Time</li> </ol>		

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Ronald. *Praise! A Matter of Life and Breath*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1980.

Allen, Ronald and Gordon Borrer. *Worship: Rediscovering the Missing Jewel*. Portland: Multnomah Press, 1982.

Augustine. *Expositions of the Psalms*. Edited by John E. Rotelle. Translated by Maria Poulding. The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Brooklyn, NY: New City Press, 2000.

Bradshaw, Paul F. *Daily Prayer in the Early Church: A Study of the Origin and Early Development of the Divine Office*. London: SPCK/Alcuin Club, 1981.

- . *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy*. London: SPCK, 2002.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Worship in Ancient Israel: The Essential Guide*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Callahan, Kenneth. *Dynamics in Worship*. San Francisco: Harper, 1994.
- Carson, Herbert, *Hallelujah! Christian Worship*. Hertfordshire, England: Evangelical Press, 1980.
- Cullmann, Oscar. *Early Christian Worship*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1978.
- Cyril of Jerusalem (Ed. F.L. Cross). *Lectures on the Christian Sacraments*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1951.
- Dawn, Marva. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Davies, J.G., Ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1986.
- Dix, Gregory. *The Shape of the Liturgy*. New ed. London: Continuum, 2005.
- Doran, Carol and Thomas Troeger. *Open To Glory*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1983.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Foley, Edward. *Foundations of Christian Music*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2009.
- Gaddy, C. Welton. *The Gift of Worship*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
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- Hall, Christopher A. *Worshipping with the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
- Hill, Andrew E. *Enter His Courts With Praise!: Old Testament worship for the New Testament Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *At the Origins of Christian Worship: The Context and Character of Earliest Christian Devotion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

----. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

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Jennings, Theodore, Jr. *Life As Worship: Prayer and Praise in Jesus' Name*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Jeremias, Joachim. *The Eucharistic Words of Jesus*. London: SCM, 1966.

Johnson, Maxwell E. (Ed). *Sacraments and Worship: Key readings in the history and theology of Christian worship from the New Testament to the present*. London: SPCK, 2012.

Leith, John. *Creeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.

Lovelace, Austin and William Rice. *Music and Worship in the Church*, rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1976.

Martin, Ralph. *The Worship of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Milavec, Aaron. *The Didache: Text, Translation, Analysis, and Commentary*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Myers, Warren and Ruth. *Praise: A Door To God's Presence*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

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- Ross, Melanie C., Lamport, Mark A. (Eds). *Historical Foundations of Worship: Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Perspectives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2022.
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- Willimon, William. *The Bible: A Sustaining Presence in Worship*. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 1981.

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## **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](https://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](https://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 policies 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://classes.tyndale.ca). For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary [Grading System & Scale](#).