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DS522 – United Church Worship
January Interterm, Mon-Wed Jan 9-11, 2023
Daily 2:00 – 5:30 pm Pacific Time

PURPOSE: The liturgical practices of the local church are among the most powerful and spiritually formative ways that Christians have to express our faith and to be shaped in our collective identity as worshippers. The congregational articulation of the vision of God’s purpose for our communal life together is mediated through liturgy. Strong, theologically-rooted worship supports robust relationships and vibrant ministry. The identity of the United Church of Canada is grounded in the reformed tradition and also in the contextually relevant (and therefore diverse) ways that our people know and praise God. Evident in United Church worship and spiritual practice are both respect for the tradition that has formed us and also a commitment to the ongoing renewal of our ecclesial traditions through creative worship expressions.

In this course, we will first survey the historical worship traditions and practices of the United Church of Canada, followed by a review of contemporary issues and their potential impact on UCC worship praxis. DS522 will prepare students for public worship leadership through the preparation and delivery of sample liturgies for the four “folds” of Sunday worship, the sacraments, and Christian funeral/memorial services. We will also reflect on the theological, pastoral, and practical considerations that inform our choices of language, music and aesthetics within the rhythms of each worship service and the larger seasons of the liturgical year.

PREREQUISITES: There are no specific course prerequisites, although LS 500 Introduction to Christian Worship (or similar course) is advisable. It is strongly recommended that students be connected to a United Church worshipping community for the purposes of observation, reflection and practice of public worship leadership. Please note: no previous musical experience is required, but students will be invited to sing together as we explore the hymnody of the United Church. Please be prepared to wear a mask during group singing activities. If you play an instrument, you are also welcome to bring it with you to the classroom (Epiphany Chapel) each day of the Interterm.

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES: After successful completion of this course, competence in United Church Worship will be achieved through the students’ demonstrated ability to:

- Communicate knowledge of the history, theology and “forms” of United Church worship.
- Situate their understanding of United Church liturgical practice within the broader Christian traditions.
- Critically assess and evaluate liturgical resources for theological, pastoral, and aesthetic value in diverse United Church worship settings.
- Identify and articulate the personal and congregational theologies undergirding their liturgical choices.
- Create, refine, and publicly present several different types of original liturgies demonstrating a growing capacity to write and adapt theologically robust and spiritually formative worship resources suitable for use in their congregational context.

- Evaluate, integrate, and experience a wide variety of traditional and contemporary worship planning resources, including service music and hymnody, poetry and prayer, visual and performative arts, symbols and gestures, and digital worship resources.
- Thoughtfully attend to the many simultaneous tasks required when preparing and leading worship, including theological hospitality and pastoral sensitivity.

FORMAT AND CONTENT: This course will survey the history of United Church worship, including a review of primary and secondary sources and current liturgical practices. Using “ordered liberty” as a primary model for the liturgical identity of the United Church of Canada, we will explore the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, funeral/memorial services, and the “four-fold” order of worship for Sunday services. Students will be introduced to the rhythms of the liturgical year and the use of the Revised Common Lectionary through a participatory framework that promotes student engagement and multi-modal, creative learning.

This course will be offered in a 10 hour intensive format, held over three afternoons, from Monday, January 9th to Wednesday, January 11th, from 2 pm to 5:30 pm each day. It is a 1.0 credit denominational studies course. Students must read the assigned chapters **prior to** these topics being addressed during the intensive, as we will be discussing key themes from the readings and exploring how these principles may be applied across diverse worship settings through a series of practical exercises in class. Readings will include daily chapters from Kervin’s *Ordered Liberty*, as well supplementary readings on Populi by Allen and Legge, Caron, Kervin, and Sparks. Review of (and familiarity with) the other materials in the bibliography is highly encouraged. Annotations have been given for some of these selections to help categorize future readings, and to provide a practical list of suitable resources for worship leading.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Allen, Gail and Marilyn Legge. “Ecclesiology: Being The United Church of Canada” in Don Schweitzer, Robert C. Fennell, and Michael Bourgeois, eds., *The Theology of the United Church of Canada*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2019. [Chapter 7 will be available on Populi. Entire book on hold at the VST Library.]
2. Caron, Charlotte. “Sacraments” in *Eager for Worship: Theologies, Practices, and Perspectives on Worship in the United Church of Canada*. Toronto: UCC Division of Ministry Personnel and Education, 2000. [This chapter will be available on Populi. Entire book on hold at the VST Library.]
3. Kervin, William S. *Ordered Liberty: Readings in the History of United Church Worship*. Toronto: UCPH, 2011. [Order online at UCPH **at least four weeks before class begins**, or purchase/borrow from a previous student. There will be assigned readings from this text on a daily basis throughout the course.]
4. Kervin, William S. “Worship on the Way: The Dialectic of United Church Worship” in Don Schweitzer, ed. *The United Church of Canada: A History*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2012. [This chapter will be available on Populi. Entire book on hold at the VST Library.]

5. Sparks, David. "What Makes For a Good Funeral?" in *A Good Ending: A Compassionate Guide to Funerals, Pastoral Care, and Life Celebrations*. Toronto: UCPH, 2014. [Chapter 14 available on Populi. Entire book on hold at the VST Library.]
6. United Church Publishing House. "The Sacrament of Communion" in *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*. Etobicoke: UCPH, 2000. [This brief article will be available on Populi. Entire book on hold at the VST Library.]

RESERVES: All physical copies of reserve books will be placed on hold in the VST library for the duration of Interterm; when permissible under copyright law, reserve materials will also be made available digitally through Populi for the duration of the course.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance** For a weekly course, VST requires at least 80% attendance. For an intensive course, VST requires 100% attendance.
2. **Reading and assignments** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.
3. **Academic honesty** Students are expected to adhere to VST's requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.
4. **Inclusive language** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.
5. **Assignment and Course Evaluation**
 - Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is "Not Approved") including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.
 - Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write.
 - For a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be Approved.
6. **Late assignments**
Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.
7. **Limitation on use of social media**
Ordinarily, the use of electronic devices in the contexts of classrooms or meetings will be to support the learning, formation, or agenda at hand.
8. **Limitation on use of class material and images**
No material from Zoom classes, including screen capture pictures of their fellow students, professors, and CTAs cannot be posted to Facebook or any other social media without the express consent of the affected individuals.

9. **VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment.** If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which you anticipate may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean within the first week of classes.

COURSE CALENDAR

Monday, January 9th Topics: UCC Worship History, the Liturgical Year, the Revised Common Lectionary, Building Blocks for Worship (Gathering and Word)

Readings from Kervin's *Ordered Liberty*: "A Sunday Liturgy" pp. 95-107
 "The Sermon" pp. 262-267

Readings on Populi: Chapter 9 "Worship on the Way: The Dialectic of United Church Worship" by William Kervin in Don Schweitzer, ed. *The United Church of Canada: A History*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2012. (pp. 185-201)

Tuesday, January 10th Topics: UCC Worship Hospitality and Intercultural Considerations, Baptism, Holy Communion, Building Blocks for Worship (Response/Thanksgiving)

Readings from Kervin's *Ordered Liberty*: "Worship as Metaphor of a New Reality" pp. 270-283
 "Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Faith" pp. 115-122

Readings on Populi: 1. Chapter 4 "Sacraments" by Charlotte Caron in *Eager for Worship: Theologies, Practices, and Perspectives on Worship in The United Church of Canada*. The McGeachy Papers, Vol. 7. Toronto: The Division of Ministry Personnel and Education, 2000. (pp.34-68)

Readings on Populi: 2. "The Sacrament of Communion" in *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*. Etobicoke: UCPH, 2000. (pp. 239-242)

Wednesday, January 11th Topics: UCC Hymnody and Worship Arts, Liturgical Principles Promoting Inclusiveness, Justice, and Community, Funerals and Memorial Services, Ecclesiological Considerations, Building Blocks for Worship (Sending)

Readings from Kervin's *Ordered Liberty*: "The Words We Sing" pp. 87-91
 "The Hymn As Theological Statement" pp. 253-261
 "Just Worship Practices" pp.292-300

Readings on Populi: 1. "Ecclesiology: Being The United Church of Canada" by Gail Allan and Marilyn Legge in Don Schweitzer, Robert C. Fennell, and Michael Bourgeois, eds., *The Theology of the United Church of Canada*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2019. (pp.173-197)

Readings on Populi: 2. Chapter 14 "What Makes for a Good Funeral?" by David Sparks in *A Good Ending: A Compassionate Guide to Funerals, Pastoral Care, and Life Celebrations*.

Toronto: UCPH, 2014. [This chapter will be available on Populi, whole book on hold at VST library.]

EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA:

Each student is expected to prepare for and to participate thoughtfully, showing engaged participation in all class discussions and liturgical exercises.

Evaluative criteria: student comments and questions show evidence of advance preparation; student demonstrates their understanding of the assigned readings and shows increasing competence while completing liturgical exercises; student completes the final integrative assignments with the measure of liturgical planning and theological reflection appropriate for their program of study; student demonstrates their ability to adapt and apply what they have learned from the DS522 course materials in the context of their local community of faith.

Once students have completed the classroom component of the January Interterm, they will be ready for the final component of DS522. Students will be required to prepare and deliver **three full liturgies** for the following pastoral occasions: 1) a four-fold Sunday worship service in the liturgical season of their choice (no sermon required) 2) a full liturgy for the sacrament of Baptism **or** Holy Communion and 3) an Order of Service for a Christian funeral (no eulogy).

These liturgies can be delivered in congregational or small group settings; students may clarify the worship leadership opportunities available to them with the instructor during the Interterm. For **each** of the three liturgies, students are asked to include a brief (one page) reflection describing the theological assumptions and pastoral concerns that undergirded and informed their liturgical decisions. Further details about this final integrative assignment will be given in class. **All coursework must be submitted by February 28, 2023.**

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Airhart, Phyllis D. *A Church with the Soul of a Nation: Making and Remaking the United Church of Canada*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014. [See especially chapters 7-9.]

Barker, Jeff. *The Storytelling Church: Adventures in Reclaiming the Role of Story in Worship*. Cleveland, TN: Webber Institute Books, 2011.

Barthel, Alan, David R. Newman, and Paul Scott Wilson. eds. *A Guide to Sunday Worship in the United Church of Canada*. Toronto: UCPH, 1988.

Bartlett, Ross. *Gathered for Preaching: A Sourcebook for Lay Leaders and Clergy*. Toronto: UCPH, 2021. [This booklet offers highly practical advice for the homiletical task. Bartlett addresses preaching considerations for the seasons of the liturgical calendar and the lectionary cycle, and he includes a timely chapter on preaching online. We used his "Sermon Preparation Checklist" in class during our discussion of the second "fold" of worship (Word), but the whole book (all 43 pages) is certainly worth reading. Pairs well as a companion volume to William Kervin's *Gathered for Worship*, which is also available through UCPH.]

Baskette, Molly Phinney. *Standing Naked Before God: The Art of Public Confession*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2015.

Begbie, Jeremy. *A Particular Orthodoxy: Reflections on Theology and the Arts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Begbie, Jeremy. *Redeeming Transcendence in the Arts: Bearing Witness to the Triune God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.

Benson, Bruce Ellis. *Liturgy as a Way of Life: Embodying the Arts in Christian Worship*. The Church and Postmodern Culture Series. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Bessey, Sarah. ed. *A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal*. New York: Convergent Press, 2021. [We prayed one of these powerful calls for justice during the final day of Interterm; this volume of prophetic and pastoral prayer is certainly a relevant, timely resource. Bessey is a Canadian author and liturgist. She is also a founding member of the “Evolving Faith” network with Rev. Jeff Chu and the late Rachael Held Evans.]

Boersma, Hans. ed. *Imagination and Interpretation: Christian Perspectives*. Vancouver: Regent College, 2005. [See esp. chapter 5 on the power of music in worship by Jeremy Begbie.]

Bracken Long, Kimberly. *The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009. [We used this excellent resource in our classroom discussions of worship hospitality, and the embodied nature of worship. Highly recommended book.]

Carvalhoes, Cláudio. *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020. [This excellent liturgical resource offers more than 450 prayers/liturgies addressing all four “folds” of worship, all from the perspective of people living “at the margins” of the Asia-Pacific Islands, Africa, the Americas, and Europe. It was organized by the Council for World Mission as a way to resist empire and to raise up the voices of Christians living in extreme poverty, oppression, violence, and pain. We used this resource in class, and it is highly recommended as a valuable resource to prompt a shift from praying *for* “the poor, sick, and suffering” to praying the words *of* those who are poor, those who are sick, those who suffer, in solidarity with them, and as a means of becoming aware of (and learning how to resist) the powers of systemic evil that cause so much global suffering, systemic evil. This book will discomfort and afflict you – as it should! It may also awaken a deep longing for justice and will certainly equip you to lead justice-focused worship liturgies in your community of faith.]

Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada. Etobicoke: UCPH, 2000. [A foundational resource that will greatly assist in writing/adapting liturgies.]

Castleman, Robbie F. *Story Shaped Worship: Following Patterns from the Bible and History*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.

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

Worship Architect and *The Music Architect* by the same author. All three of these books offer excellent planning rubrics and resources for budding liturgists. Highly recommended.]

Coffey, Michael. *Mystery without Rhyme or Reason: Poetic Reflections on the Revised Common Lectionary*. Eugene: Resource Publications, 2015. [We used this resource during our discussion of the Revised Common Lectionary in class, but I highly recommend it as a poetic resource for congregational worship use because it is both theologically grounded and liturgically imaginative while remaining short enough and accessible enough for lay readers to tackle and congregants to appreciate. Coffey also uses inclusive language for humans and expansive language for God.]

Connell, Martin. *Eternity Today: On the Liturgical Year*. Vol. 1. New York: Continuum, 2006.

Connell, Martin. *Eternity Today: On the Liturgical Year*. Vol. 2. New York: Continuum, 2006.

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

Duck, Ruth C. *Finding Words for Worship: A Guide for Leaders*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995. [We referred to this invaluable book during all three days of classroom lectures, including how to write for each of the four "folds" of Christian worship, how to choose language for preaching, how musical lyrics can help or hinder our communal worship, and the art of employing inclusive, hospitable language at the Font/Table. Duck also writes compellingly about the creative process and the disciplines of worship writing.]

Fennell, Robert. ed. *Intercultural Visions: Called to Be the Church*. Toronto: UCPH, 2012. [We touched on chapter four of this book in our classroom discussions of hospitality in worship and modeling and promoting justice as communities of faith on Day 3 of the Interterm, but the whole book is worth reading. Structured by the topics of A New Creed, this book includes many notable UCC contributors, such as HyeRan Kin-Cragg, Carmen Lansdowne, Debbie McMillan, Emmanuel Kwadwo Ofori, and Martin Rumscheidt.]

Gallagher, Nora. *The Sacred Meal*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009. [This book was referred to during our discussion of Holy Communion. Barbara Brown Taylor writes that Gallagher's treatment of the Eucharist "folds sacred life and ordinary life together like a sandwich, holding it out to me so that I suddenly remember how hungry I am." (p. i) Gallagher's familiar, narrative approach results in a book that is personable and powerful, presenting the sacrament as both God's hospitality at the Table (God inviting and feeding us, uniting us as one body in Christ), and God's formative action in us as we are shaped by the spiritual practice of the liturgy *after* the liturgy, ie. being what Gallagher calls the "ongoing incarnation" of Christ in the world. This book is likely to disrupt your assumptions and deepen your appreciation of the sacrament.]

Gilbert, Marlea et al. *The Work of the People: What We Do in Worship and Why*. The Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations Series, Vol. 7. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2007.

Gordon, T. David. *Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns: How Pop Culture Rewrote the Hymnal*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2010. [Excellent chapter on aesthetic relativism, ritual, and contemporary worship issues.]

Gross, Bobby. *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009. [This is a highly accessible book that describes each of the of the liturgical year, including devotional reflections and quotes that make it suitable for use in congregational or small group settings.]

Guite, Malcolm. *Faith, Hope, and Poetry: Theology and the Poetic Imagination*. Surrey: Ashgate, 2010.

Guite, Malcolm. *Lifting the Veil: Imagination and the Kingdom of God*. Baltimore: Square Halo Books, 2021. [Here, Guite explores how we may recover a more Christocentric understanding of human imagination; he explains how we can employ imagination as a powerfully creative tool for embodying/expressing the kingdom of God, impacting our artistic, moral, and prophetic visions of the incarnation, passion, and resurrection.]

Guite, Malcolm. *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Church Year*. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2012. [We used this volume in class, but I'd also highly recommend his poetic treatment of the Psalms in *David's Crown* (2021); loss, lament, and hope in *Love, Remember* (2017), the words of Jesus in *Parable and Paradox* (2016), and Lent and Easter themes in *The Word in the Wilderness* (2014). Guite is a liturgical poet whose work is theologically rich, yet it is also highly accessible for congregational use.]

Harding, Thomas, and Bruce Harding. *Patterns of Worship in The United Church of Canada 1925-1987*. Toronto: 1996.

Hardy, Nancy E. ed. *Singing a Song of Faith: Daily Reflections for Lent*. Toronto: UCPH, 2007. [I included this book because it offers a practical resource for a major season in the liturgical year, and because the book is explicitly organized around six major themes of *A Song of Faith*. Several well-known UCC clergy contributed chapters to this book. The text of the entire Statement of Faith is reprinted at the end of the book, along with a practical weekly guide for small group leaders that includes hymn suggestions, reflection questions, suggested activities, and closing prayers. This is an excellent way to introduce *A Song of Faith* to your local congregation via small group settings or as a series of six Sunday worship themes during the liturgical season of Lent or Ordinary/Creation Time.]

Harrison Warren, Tish. *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2016. [This Anglican priest uses a narrative approach to connect traditional liturgical practice to the rhythms of everyday life, refusing artificial "sacred/secular" or "Sunday worship vs the rest of the week" divisions. It is a highly accessible and valuable book for clergy and congregants alike.]

Haughton, William R. *The Search for a Symbol: "A New Creed" and The United Church of Canada*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2022.

Hoffman, Paul E. *Faith Shaping Ministry*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2013. [This book offers a fascinating explanation of how a congregation was spiritually transformed by an intentional focus on baptismal living.]

Jensen, Robin M. *The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith, and the Christian Community*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Johnson, Maxwell E., ed. *Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2000. [This is an excellent text on the liturgical year, with contributions by fourteen leading scholars. See especially “The Liturgical Year: Calendar for a Just Community” by John F. Baldovin.]

Kervin, William S. *Gathered for Worship: A Sourcebook for Worship Committees, Leaders, and Teams*. Toronto: UCPH, 2010. [A “must-have” collection of worship wisdom for any UCC minister’s bookshelf! Pairs well with Ross Bartlett’s *Gathered for Preaching*, which is also available through the UCRD bookstore and online via Amazon.]

Kervin, William S., ed. *Ordered Liberty: Readings in the History of United Church Worship*. Toronto: UCPH, 2011. [This is the foundational required text for the course; readings from this volume will accompany every classroom lecture, and each student is expected to purchase or borrow a copy of the book. It is available for twenty dollars from the UCRD bookstore. Please allow sufficient time for your order to be processed and shipped before Interterm begins.]

Kroeker, Charlotte, ed. *Music in Christian Worship: At the Service of the Liturgy*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005. [This book compiles the work of many notable theologians and liturgists, but the following chapters are of particular relevance to our course topics: “Thinking about Church Music” by Nicholas Wolterstorff, “The Virtue of Liturgical Discernment” by John D. Witvliet, “Using Music from Other Cultures in Worship” by Mary K. Oyer, and “Choosing Music for Worship” by Charlotte Kroeker.]

Lathrop, Gordon W. *Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament*. Worship Matters Series. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2005. [A deceptively slim volume packed with theological wisdom about the Gathering, Word, Font/Table, and Sending, complete with valuable practical tips for engaging our communities of faith more deeply and shaping the assembled community, *in Christ*, more faithfully. Written by an Evangelical Lutheran scholar who has many years of experience as a parish pastor, and who is also deeply involved with the North American Academy of Liturgy.]

Long, Thomas G. *Accompany Them With Singing: The Christian Funeral*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

MacFarlane and E. Ann Fleming, eds. *Arts and the Spirit: The Role of Art in Faith Formation*. Toronto: UCPH, 2007. [This book is no longer carried by the United Church Resource Distribution bookstore, but it is well worth the effort required to find a second-hand copy!]

MacLauchlan, Brenda. *Just Language: A Guide to Inclusive Language in The United Church of Canada*. Etobicoke: UCC Division of Mission in Canada, 1997.

More Voices: Supplement to *Voices United*. Toronto: UCPH, Kelowna: Woodlake Publishing, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

O'Donohue, John. *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*. New York: Doubleday, 2008. [This is a handy book for ministers to have, as it provides language to bless individuals and the gathered community of faith across many different circumstances and occasions, including several blessings for people who are ill and dying, and people who are grieving.]

Richardson, Jan. *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*. Orlando: Wanton Gospeller Press, 2016. [We used this particular text on the third day of class; Richardson has written several other titles that combine liturgical poetry with original art, including *Circle of Grace*, *In Wisdom's Path* and *Night Visions*. I highly recommend her books and visual art for use in worship.]

Rowell, Geoffrey, and Christine Hall, eds. *The Gestures of God: Explorations in Sacramentality*. London: Continuum Press, 2004.

Rupp, Joyce. *Praying Our Goodbyes*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1991. [This volume offers prayers, short reflections, suggested Scripture readings, and theological questions to help readers ponder their own experiences of illness, grief, loss, and death. The language is a bit dated now, but this book can still be used as a good resource for short services at long-term care facilities, hospital/hospice worship settings, or with a grief group or similar small group model. Rupp has also written a newer title on a similar theme, called *Little Pieces of Light: Darkness and Personal Growth* (2016).

Seaton, Jeff. *Who's Minding the Story? The United Church of Canada Meets A Secular Age*. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2018. [Using Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* as his framework, this UCC minister argues that, for the past sixty years, the UCC has accommodated to Canadian culture too much, relinquishing too many of our theological treasures in response to the pressures of secularization. Chapter six, "The Next Chapter of the Story" was referenced during our classroom discussions of the second "fold" of worship (the Word), and again when we wrestled with the practical applications of UCC ecclesiology and the merits of theological hospitality in worship.]

Schweitzer, Don, ed. *The United Church of Canada: A History*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2012. [Chapter 9 is the only assigned reading from this text for DS522, but this book provides an excellent overview of the history of The United Church of Canada.]

Schweitzer, Don, Robert C. Fennell, and Michael Bourgeois, eds. *The Theology of the United Church of Canada*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2019. [Chapter 7 is the only assigned reading from this text for DS522, but the whole volume would be beneficial for student ministers to read and to own as a reference.]

Smith, James K.A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Cultural Liturgies Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. [There are several volumes in this series, but this first book gives a good explanation of how liturgical worship functions as a "thick practice," while also exploring practical cultural exegesis and the sacramental imagination.]

Smith, Peter Andrew. *All Things Are Ready: Communion Prayers for the Church Year and Pastoral Occasions*. Lima: CSS Publishing, 2007. [Written by a UCC minister; very practical resource for use when the third “fold” of worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion.]

Sparks, David. *A Good Ending: A Compassionate Guide to Funerals, Pastoral Care, and Life Celebrations*. Toronto: UCPH, 2014. [This is an excellent resource for planning and presiding over Christian funerals, memorial services, and graveside committals.]

Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. [This book is a classic Protestant text on the subject. Don’t let the thirty years that have passed since it was published dissuade you from it; if you only have time for one text on Holy Communion, this is the book to read! We included Stookey’s guidelines for providing the sacrament to congregants who are ‘unwillingly absent’ from worship during our classroom discussions of the third ‘fold’ of worship.]

Taylor, W. David O., ed. *For the Beauty of the Church: Casting a Vision for the Arts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010. [A very practical book on the importance of nurturing worship arts in congregational settings.]

Titcome Steenwyk, Carrie and John D. Witvliet, eds. *The Worship Sourcebook*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.

Van Dyk, Leanne. ed. *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. [This slim volume is a compilation by notable worship scholars, including John Witvliet, William Dyrness, Leanne Van Dyk, Ronald Byars, Martha Moore-Keich and David Stubbs. They discuss the connections between liturgical actions and major theological themes such as the Trinity, Sin and Grace, Revelation, Christology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, and Ethics. This is an excellent theological primer for worship leaders.]

Voices United: Hymns and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada. Etobicoke: UCPH, 1996.

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God’s Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009. [This is the last book that Webber (a notable pioneer in the discipline of worship arts) wrote before his death, and in it, he shares a lifetime of wisdom about the fundamental nature and function of public worship. If I could only recommend *one* book from this entire annotated bibliography, *Ancient-Future Worship* would be that text! Webber writes compellingly and practically for the benefit of contemporary worship leaders, yet every chapter is also grounded in the biblical, theological, and historical priorities and practices of the Church.]

Weems, Ann. *Kneeling in Jerusalem: Poetry for Lent and Easter*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010. [This author has written a whole series of liturgical poetry collections; see also *From Advent’s Alleluia to Easter’s Morning Light, Reaching for Rainbows, Searching for Shalom: Resources for Creative Worship* for use in congregational, community, or small group worship settings.]

Willimon, William H. *Remember Who You Are: Baptism, a Model for Christian Life*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1980. [Although the language for humans and for God is not as

inclusive/expansive here as in Willimon's more recent writing, the strength of the author's theological arguments about Baptism, and his practical ecclesial suggestions about how to employ the sacrament (and our communal remembrance of it) as a means of liturgical formation more than make-up for the author's now dated linguistic choices.]

Willimon, William H. *Sunday Dinner: The Lord's Supper and the Christian Life*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1981. [Like the above annotation about Willimon's baptismal text, the language is dated in this slim volume about Holy Communion, but the content is theologically rich and of significant practical value for worship leaders who want to deepen their understanding and praxis of ministry at the Table.]

Witvliet, John D. *Worship Seeking Understanding: Windows into Christian Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003. [Witvliet divides this book into sections on the biblical, theological, historical, musical, and pastoral implications of worship.]