

**Course: DS501 Anglican Liturgy**  
(2 credits)**Instructors:** The Reverend Helen Dunn and The Very Reverend Peter Elliott**Email:** [pelliott@vst.edu](mailto:pelliott@vst.edu), [helencdunn@gmail.com](mailto:helencdunn@gmail.com)**January 2026 Inter-Term****On-site Course: January 5- 9 (2pm-6pm).****COURSE OVERVIEW**

Through worship we are drawn into the very life of God. The word *liturgy* comes from the Greek word *leitourgia* meaning *a public work voluntarily undertaken by the few for the common good of all*. Christian liturgy is therefore deeply connected with God's good purposes for us and for all of creation. It is not separate from but part of the church's participation in the *missio Dei* --the mission of God. Anglican liturgical heritage and expression makes it our normative act of self-identification. Through liturgical forms of prayer, Anglicans worship God in community, and discover who we are at our deepest level—members of the Body of Christ who are gathered, renewed in our baptismal identity and purpose, and sent out to be salt, light and leaven for the sake of the world.

This course will orient students to the nature and purpose of liturgy and to the specific development of liturgy in the Anglican tradition. Students will learn the shape of core Anglican liturgies, become acquainted with the role that all the elements of liturgy play in the formation of Anglican worshippers, and will focus on the particular roles the Presider (also known as President)/Officiant, Deacons and other ministers play in both Eucharistic and other liturgies. The course will also expose students to a range of liturgical resources for seasonal/special occasions, and they will become aware of elements of liturgical tradition that are only infrequently seen, but which are part of the richness of the Anglican offer.

**COMPETENCY OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE**

By the end of the course, students will be able:

- To trace the basic history and development of the Anglican liturgical tradition.
- To use Canadian and Episcopalian contemporary language rites for the major services of the Church with confidence and to know the basic structure of the Canadian *Book of Common Prayer/ Episcopalian Rite I*.
- To exhibit greater confidence in preparing liturgical material for parish worship and in working collaboratively with others (other priests and deacons, lectors, servers, sacristans, planning teams) to prepare and offer liturgies.
- To articulate and describe the role of presider and officiant in terms of desired presence and the ability to lead the assembly and to assess self in relation to these roles.
- To describe how best to use liturgical space, liturgical appurtenances, vestments, and other liturgical furnishings to create liturgical experiences with greater formative power.
- To have a greater awareness of the range of liturgical possibilities for Anglicans.

- To describe the ways in which context informs liturgical decisions and to plan creatively for seasonal and special occasions.

## OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READING

### **Monday January 5: 2pm--Introductions and Exploration of Liturgy**

The course will begin with community building, overview and structure of the course, presentations on the meaning of liturgy and the practicalities of preparing services of worship.

- Read at least the first four chapters of *The Study of Liturgy and Worship*, edited by Juliette Day and Benjamin Gordon-Taylor. These chapters are available on Populi.

### **Tuesday January 6—the Feast of the Epiphany, 2pm**

#### **Eucharist 1: An Instructed Eucharist; Liturgical Space and Planning.**

On this feast day, the class will join in an instructed Eucharist according to the Book of Alternative Services, page 185 (similar to TEC Rite 2). There will be a presentation and discussion on the history and development of liturgical space and a workshop on how to assemble a liturgy.

- Read the introduction to the rites of Holy Eucharist in the *Book of Alternative Services* pages 174- 182
- Read articles by Paul Gibson and Bill Crockett posted on Populi

### **Wednesday January 7: Eucharist 2: The Book of Common Prayer/Rite I:**

Today, the class will have an opportunity to become more familiar with the BCP/Rite I structure and language. We will explore some of the history of these texts, and how they have evolved. We will talk about the key differences between them and the modern rites. We will also open a conversation about Eucharistic hospitality (open table or not?) and examine the texts for the Reconciliation of a Penitent (confession).

Before class:

- Familiarise yourself with the outline of the Book of Common Prayer 1662, the Canadian 1962 Revision, and Rite I of the Episcopal Church. Online resources can be found here:
- [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/11/bcp\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/11/bcp_compressed.pdf)
- <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>
- If you have time, then read the article on Populi about the early history of the Prayer Book.

### **Thursday January 4 2pm The Paschal Triduum, Baptism and Confirmation**

The jewel of the liturgical renewal of the late 1960s is the recovery of the Holy Week rites particularly for the Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Great Vigil—the *Sacrum Triduum*). The Triduum is seen as a "jewel" because its restored structure effectively presents the core of Christian faith through powerful and unified liturgical experiences, moving beyond mere historical remembrance to an actual participation in the saving events. The Sacrament of Baptism is rooted in the Paschal Mystery, and its companion rite Confirmation is also connected.

We class will look at the various Holy Week Rites, beginning with Palm Sunday and discuss the practical considerations to offering these liturgies.

- Read the introduction to Holy Week Rites in the BAS page 296 and the introduction to Baptism page 146.
- A good reference is Mitchell, Leonel L., *Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Great Fifty Days: A Ceremonial Guide*. Cambridge: Cowley Press, 1996.

**Friday January 5: 2pm Exploring the Pastoral Offices: Marriage and Funerals.**

On this final day of the course, the class will focus on the pastoral offices of Weddings and Funerals. How to approach these rites in the context of parish ministry will be a focus, as will the theology of marriage.

- Read *The Funeral Liturgy* in the BAS page 565 and following.
- Read these resources: from TEC  
<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21231>
- From the Anglican Church of Canada
- [https://ecumenism.net/archive/docu/2015-09-22\\_acc\\_marriage\\_canon\\_report.pdf](https://ecumenism.net/archive/docu/2015-09-22_acc_marriage_canon_report.pdf)

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Liturgical Texts:

- Canadian texts are here: <https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>
- American Texts are here: <https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/existing-liturgies1.html>
- Other BCP resources are here: <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>
- *Common Worship* (Church of England) is here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship>

Other texts: Articles are extracts to be read before the class are included in the outline above, and are on Populi, or linked from there. **You do not need to purchase any texts**, but should you wish to do so, the key texts from which extracts are taken are as follows:

Tom Clammer, *Crowning the Year: Liturgy, Theology and Ecclesiology for the Rural Church* (London: Hymns Ancient and Modern, 2021).

William Seth-Adam, *Shaped by Images* (New York: Church Hymnal Corporation, 1995).  
Juliette Day and Benjamin Gordon-Taylor (eds.), *The Study of Liturgy and Worship* (London: SPCK 2013).

Stephen Burns (ed.), *Liturgical Spirituality: Anglican Reflections on the Church's Prayer* (New York: Seabury Books, 2013).

For further reading, see the bibliography, below.

## REQUIREMENTS

*Attendance (100%) at all sessions and active class participation.* Students are expected to participate in class discussions and do adequate preparation of in-class discussion, especially via the readings set out above.

Students are to produce a **learning journal** including **one entry for each day of the course**. **Each entry should make at least one citation.** The total word count should be 2000-2500, but if students wish to write more, they are free to do so. If writing longer entries, make very sure not to waffle. The journal will be graded, but it is also for your future reference, so make it useful to yourself in five or ten year's time, when you know you learned something but cannot quite remember the details. The key question is, therefore, what is it that you really want your future self to remember?

## SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY Anglicanism

Avis, Paul, *The Vocation of Anglicanism* (London: T&T Clark, 2018).

Thornton, Martin, *English Spirituality: An Outline of Ascetical Theology according to the English Pastoral Tradition* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2012).

### General: Theological, Historical

Anderson, Maxwell, *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology* (Westminster: John Knox Press, 2012).

Crockett, William R., *Eucharist: Symbol of Transformation* (Collegeville: Pueblo Books, 2017).

Farwell, James, *The Liturgy Explained* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2013).

Hefling, Charles and Shattuck, Cynthia (eds.), *The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Lathrop, Gordon W., *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003).

Lathrop, Gordon W., *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998).

Mitchell, Leonel L., *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer* (New York: Seabury Books, 2016).

Price, Charles P. and Weil, Louis, *Liturgy for Living* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2000).

Reeves, Mary Gray and Perham, Michael, *The Hospitality of God: Emerging Worship of a Missional Church* (New York: Seabury Books, 2011).

White James F., *A Brief History of Christian Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993).

### **Practical/Ceremonial**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Minneapolis (Augsburg Fortress Press, 2006).

Galley, Howard E., *The Ceremonies of the Eucharist: A Guide to Celebration* (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1989).

Gatta, Julia and Smith, Martin L., *Go in Peace: The Art of Hearing Confessions* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2012).

Gibson, Paul, *Make Preparation: Liturgy Planning Notes* (Toronto: ABC Publishers, 2009).

Wells, Sam, *Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral and Attractional Worship* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2018).

Giles, Richard, *Re-pitching the Tent: The Definitive Guide to Reordering the Church Building for Worship and Mission*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 1997.

Hovda, Robert W., *Strong, Loving and Wise: Presiding in the Liturgy*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1976.

Huck, Gabe and Chinchar, Gerald T., *Liturgy with Style and Grace*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.

Kavanaugh, Aidan, *Elements of Rite: A Handbook of Liturgical Style*. New York: Pueblo Publishing, 1982.

Michno, Dennis G., *A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 1998.

Mitchell, Leonel L., *Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Great Fifty Days: A Ceremonial Guide*. Cambridge: Cowley Press, 1996.

Mitchell, Leonel L. *Pastoral and Occasional Liturgies: A Ceremonial Guide*. Cambridge: Cowley Press, 1998.

Reynolds, Stephen, editor, *McCausland's Order of Divine Service*. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre revised annually.

Turrell, James F., *Celebrating the Rites of Initiation: A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers*. New York: Church Publishing, 2013.