PTH 550: PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP (2 credits)

COURSE GOALS: The student will learn about the importance of Biblical worship, its elements, and its structure. Students will learn through lectures, reading, and interactive assignments.

LECTURES:

Dr. Sacha Walicord – 15 lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPVJBKh5mz8&list=PLv1N_hNNOMzApbmlyzNNkTP9dGnmlVm79>

BOOKS

Cruse, Jonathan Landry. What Happens When We Worship . 200 pgs.

<https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/what-happens-when-we-worship-cruse.html>

Burroughs, Jeremiah. Gospel Worship. 206 pgs

<https://www.monergism.com/gospel-worship-ebook>

Rayburn, Robert. O Come Let Us Worship. 320 pgs.

[Amazon link](https://www.amazon.com/Come-Let-Worship-Corporate-Evangelical/dp/1608996158/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=6B8Y6J37WL3B&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.vtsitQPtYsm0KvGBJS6wlNWrSeAXCkpXSFZHCPtHWQI.dIjd2KwaAol8Tt5PQKmjd39GXNGni-bpTuG7JMcO3lU&dib_tag=se&keywords=o+come+let+us+worship+robert+rayburn&qid=1737592085&sprefix=o+come+let+%2Caps%2C233&sr=8-1)

PROJECTS/ASSIGNMENTS

1. Complete the lectures on worship by Dr. Walicord. Share notes with mentor.
2. Using your congregation’s order of worship, describe why each element of the worship is done. Discuss the order with your mentor/pastor. Why is the service arranged the way it is? Compare your congregation’s order of worship to that of 4 other Reformed congregations (VPC, OPC, PCA, URCNA, RCUS, etc). What is different? What do they do that your congregation does? Is there anything you would incorporate into your worship service from theirs. 5-10 pages.
3. Interview 3 pastors from Reformed congregations other than your own congregation. Why do they order their worship service as they do? Have they changed anything over the years? Do they have different orders of worship for certain occasions (such as Lord’s Supper)? Do they take offerings during the service? At what point in the service does the sermon take place? Why? Etc. Student will submit the results of these interviews.
4. Read What Happens When We Worship by Cruse. Write a 5 page reaction paper.
5. Read O Come Let Us Worship by Rayburn. Write a 5 page reaction paper.
6. Read Gospel Worship by Burroughs. Write a 5 page reaction paper.
7. Lead a worship service in a Vanguard Presbyterian Church (if possible).
8. Write a 3-5 page paper on your views regarding music in the worship service. Include thoughts on exclusive psalmody, hymns, contemporary worship music, and the use of instruments. The student should reflect upon why they hold their views.
9. Create a 12-week Sunday School course on Worship. One example would be to frame the Sunday School class around the worship service of your local congregation. Review it with your mentor. The student’s pastor or ruling elders may assist the student with ideas.
10. Three mentor sessions: One on the lectures. One on order of worship, bulletin comparisons and interviews. One on readings and plan for Sunday School course.

GRADING

1. Order of worship assignment 20%
2. Pastoral Interviews 10%
3. Cruse book response 10%
4. Burroughs book response 10%
5. Rayburn book response 10%
6. Views on worship music paper 10%
7. 12 week Sunday School 20%
8. Mentor sessions and Lecture notes 10%