

Liturgical Theology

Convener: Jan Schnell (jrippentrop-schnell@wartburgseminary.edu) is Assistant Professor of Liturgics at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa

Members in Attendance: Dennis Abraham, Lorraine Brugh, Julie Canlis, Hans Christoffersen, Bruce Cinquegrani, Matt Cortis, Cory Dixon, Joris Geldhof, Todd Johnson, Kelli Joyce, Judith Kubicki, Bruce Morrill, Neal Presa, Melanie Ross, Jan Schnell, Rhoda Schuler, Frank Senn, Shannon Sigler, James Starke, Mark Taylor, Porter C. Taylor, David Williams, Andrew Wright

Visitors: Unavailable

Description of Work: Our seminar discussed two books and one chapter: *Broken Bodies: Eucharist, Mary, and the Body in Trauma Theology* (Karen O'Donnell's connection of somatic memory to the annunciation and incarnation while articulating bodily, liturgical, spiritual, and theological impacts of traumas), *The Mystery of Sacrifice* (Evelyn Underhill's writing in Christian mysticism emphasizing the centrality of Eucharist in liturgies), "Sacrament and Sacrifice" in *Worship* (Evelyn Underhill's poetic description of spiritual and physical dimensions of sacrifice that moves toward love and changes reality). We also discussed four papers by seminar members.

Papers and Presentations:

- Cory Dixon: "The Implications of the Priest Standing *In Persona Ecclesiae*." Dixon led the seminar in considering how clericalism can inhibit the voice of the assembly and whether conceiving of a priest *in persona oikumene* or *in persona Christi* might lessen focus on priest alone and help restore a sense of being in solidarity with all Christians and the marginalized.
- Shannon Sigler: "Liturgical Aesthetics and the Freedom to be Formed: Charles Wesley and the Means of Grace." Sigler developed a Wesleyan perspective on liturgical aesthetics, noting that after conversion Charles Wesley stopped chronicling his achievements and started writing poetry as a form of worshipping God; she also listened to contemporary artists of faith as they (struggle to) name connections between faith and life work.
- Porter C. Taylor: "Jesus' *Leitourgia* and Paschal Mystery: Foundations for Eucharist and Liturgical Theology." Taylor traced of multiple lines of historical thought development in liturgical theology as he worked toward a eucharistically centered and ecumenically viable methodology.

- Bruce Cinquegrani: “Empathy and the *ars celebrandi*.” Cinquegrani explored how the philosophy and psychology of empathy (both among human subjects and toward liturgies themselves) impact the presiding role of ritual leaders.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: Looking ahead to the 2025 meeting, we decided to continue our pattern of reading two books (one historic, one contemporary) as well as discussing group members’ works-in-progress. Five members (Bruce Morrill, Benita Lim, Joris Geldhof, Neal Presa, and David Williams) have expressed interest in offering papers in 2025.

So far ideas for our historically-impactful author for 2025 include

- 1-3 chapters from *Theological Dimensions of the Liturgy* by Vagaggini
- A writing on the Nicene Creed

Our contemporary author for 2025 will be one of the following:

- Pavol Bargar, *Embodied Existence: Our Common Life in God*
- David Power, *Love Without Calculation*