

# Modern History of Worship

**Conveners:** The Rev. Shawn Strout (sstrout@vts.edu) is Assistant Professor of Worship and Associate Dean of Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Members in Attendance:** Kent Bureson, Allan Ferguson, Tim Gabrielli, Katie Harmon, Bill Johnston, Kristian Kohler, Sarah Mount Elewononi, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Shawn Strout, Karen Westerfield Tucker

**Visitors:** Hilary Bogert-Winkler, Matt Cortese

**Description of Work:** The Modern History of Worship seminar welcomes papers exploring the liturgical history of the modern era (c. 1500-present) by considering its theological, socio-cultural, and practical/pastoral aspects. We are committed to dialogue and interaction between denominations. This year, the papers and presentations involved a range of topics. We discussed the liturgical thought of Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI. We considered some of Bonhoeffer's writings on secularity and their potential impact on grassroots liturgy. We looked at the proscription of the Church of England's *Book of Common Prayer* for the Church of Ireland during the English Commonwealth. Wesley's teaching on the "Catholic Spirit" and its impact on liturgical ecumenism among Methodist/Wesleyan churches was discussed. The impact of communion without baptism on the Episcopal Church's ecumenical relationships was probed. Luther's understanding of receiving the Eucharist as both remembrance and thanksgiving were topics of discussion, and a presentation on a potential doctoral dissertation proposal on Lutheran/Episcopal worship concluded our time.

## Papers and Presentations:

- Bill Johnston: "The Liturgical Thought of Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI." This paper introduces a book of essays on Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI's liturgical thought especially surrounding his *motu proprio* "*Summorum Pontificum*."
- Allan Ferguson: "Bonhoeffer and Grassroots Liturgy." This paper argued that Bonhoeffer's understanding of the rise of a general spirituality untethered from the church explains the rise in grassroots liturgies but would not endorse them.
- Hilary Bogert-Winkler: "'A Free National Church': The Church of Ireland and the Prayer Book Proscription of 1647." This paper analyzes how the Church of Ireland reacted to the English Parliament's attempt to proscribe use of the *Book of Common Prayer* during the English Commonwealth.

- Karen Westerfield Tucker: “Methodist Liturgical Ecumenism: Worship and the ‘Catholic Spirit.’” This paper argues that John Wesley’s views on the “Catholic Spirit” influenced the development of an ecumenical spirit among Methodists/Wesleyans regarding liturgical sources for worship.
- Shawn Strout: “Baptism and the Eucharist Connect the Church: Ecumenical Perspectives.” This paper contends that the practice of communion without baptism would negatively impact the ecumenical relationships of the Episcopal Church.
- Kent Burreson: “Two Ways of Receiving the Sacrament: Luther’s Understanding of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in the Lord’s Supper.” This paper suggests that Luther taught receiving the sacrament as both remembrance of Christ’s work on the cross and thanksgiving for his sacrifice.
- Kristian Kohler: “Presentation on Lutheran/Episcopal Worship.” This presentation sought feedback on a potential doctoral dissertation proposal centered on Lutheran/Episcopal worship.

**Other Work and Plans for the Future:** At present, proposed projects for next year include:

- Tim Gabrielli: Marshall McCluen and the liturgy
- Hilary Bogart-Winkler: Anglican preaching during the interregnum
- Kent Burreson: Continuation of Luther’s work on receiving the sacrament
- Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero: Healing rites in the twenty-first century
- Matt Cortese: Early Jesuits and the Liturgy of the Hours
- Bill Johnston: The dynamic between formed and formless prayers in ecumenical worship