

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, Sarah Mount Elewoni, Timothy Gabrielli, Katharine Harmon, Jonathan Hehn, William Johnston, Kevin Moroney, Anthony Ruff, Shawn Strout

Visitors in Attendance: Hilary Bogert-Winkler, Carl Bromley, Matthew Cortese, Allan Ferguson, Patrick Geyser

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 spirituality of the liturgical movement. We also considered some of Martin Luther's writings on the sacraments and the history of liturgical reform among Presbyterian and Reformed traditions in the nineteenth century. We heard about Peter Faber and the praying of the liturgy of the hours. A contemporary paper on Marshall McLuhan and the practice of Eucharistic Adoration was presented. A paper on the influence of ritual theory on Gothic Revival architecture was given, as well as one on Anglican lectionary preaching through John Evelyn's diary.

Papers and Presentations:

- Katharine Harmon and Michael Witzak: "The Spirituality of the Liturgical Movement."
- Kent Bureson: Continuation of Luther's work on receiving the sacrament.
- Jonathan Hehn: "The Evangelical and Liturgical Movements among Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the 'Long' Nineteenth Century."
- Timothy Gabrielli: "Marshall McLuhan and the Practice of Eucharistic Adoration."
- Matthew Cortese: "Omnia Verba Sacra: Praying the Liturgy of the Hours with St. Peter Faber."
- William Johnston: "C.S. Lewis and Liturgical Worship."
- Shawn Strout: "Separate and Sacred: A Ritual Critique of Gothic Revival Architecture."
- Hilary Bogart-Winkler: "Anglican Lectionary Preaching During the Interregnum: The Evidence from John Evelyn's Diary."

Other Work and Plans for the Future: We discussed plans for next year, including possibly reading an essay or book chapter jointly. Members also offered tentative plans for papers.