

The Advent Project

Convener: Suzanne W. Duchesne (dr.suzanne.w.duchesne@gmail.com) is Assistant Professor of Worship & Preaching and Director of Mast Chapel, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and an ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church.

Members in Attendance: Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne, Elise A. Feyerherm, Laura Moore, William Petersen

Visitors in Attendance: Victoria Larson

Description of Work: Our work this year included a paper by member William Petersen regarding the language and a theological conception of sovereignty within an Advent lens. In addition, members gave two presentations. The first from Laura Moore who provided Children's Resources for Expanded Advent and the second by Elise Feyerherm and Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne who shared experiences and strategies for introducing Expanded Advent within the seminary context. Our visitor Victoria Larson gave a third presentation regarding her work in Expanded Advent through, Barn Geese Worship.

Papers and Presentations:

- William Petersen: "The Advent of Deeper Understandings: A Christological Key to Participatory Sovereignty in the Divine Realm." This paper based was on the concept of "sovereignty" in the Divine Realm (Reign of God/Kingdom of Christ/Commonwealth of the Holy Spirit).
- Laura Moore: "Children's Resources for Expanded Advent."
- Elise Feyerherm and Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne: "Expanded Advent and the Seminary Context, Both Pedagogy and Praxis."
- Victoria Larson: "Extended Advent with Barn Geese Worship." This was a presentation sharing experiences creating and marketing extended Advent resources for mainline Protestant congregations mostly based in the US and Canada.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: Future plans include supplementing our website with a Google Page linked to the Facebook page, whereby we can provide updated documents from our past few years more readily.

This would include links to this year's presentation by Victoria Larson's Wild-goose website and Elise Feyerherm and Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne's presentation as strategies for introducing expanded advent to congregational and seminary

contexts. To continue providing resources for preaching and worship and children particularly Laura Moore's work.

For next year we anticipate exploring Hymnody and Expanded Advent: Joy to the world as a subversive advent hymn using possible resources such as the editions for the yearly lectionary cycles edited by Carl P. Daw Jr. and Thomas Pavlechko, *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary Year* (New York: Church Publishing). We will expand upon hermeneutical considerations and homiletical lenses for preaching the Expanded Advent texts, consider how the calendar adapts to cultural conditions, and look at the emergence of the stress on Christmas as a holy day in Christian tradition. We also aim to explore other themes for Expanded Advent beyond the RCL, e.g., stories of annunciation from the Eastern church tradition, images, and topical sermon series. Another aim is to create a re-imagining of the Jesse tree for Expanding Advent and begin to develop and design Bible studies and group studies. In addition, Victoria Larson has been invited to come back at a future date to provide some insights from her dissertation about the Monastic understanding and conception of liturgical time relative to Advent.