

PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP AND ORPC ORDER OF WORSHIP

SoCM Adult Sunday School Class

Introduction

- “It is no secret that the single most divisive issue in most congregations today—whether Presbyterian or some other denomination—is worship style”
- “It is safe to say that some of the conflict with regard to this issue is generational—children of the 1960s and 1970s generally desire worship in the cultural styles and forms of their own generation, while those from previous generations tend to want to hold to ‘traditional’ worship” (Lucas 2006, 113)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- The Protestant Reformation in the 16th century was really a reform of worship, of which Presbyterianism is a part of that legacy
- There is a tendency within the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions to make “sacrosanct” the “style” of worship derived from the Reformation era or the age of hymnody in 19th century revivalism
- Reformed people and Presbyterians look to Scripture as our ultimate guide for worship that “transcends style yet at the same time is able to be expressed in local churches through a variety of valid worship expressions” (Lucas 2006, 116)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- Marked by Word and Sacrament
- Movement from the world to God and back to the world to live for God's glory
- Recognition of the centrality and formative importance of worship (Lucas 2006, 116-17)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- Presbyterian worship is distinguished by the principle: “Scripture regulates corporate worship”
- “The acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture” (WCF 21.1)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- Positively, we are to practice “the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word: particularly **prayer** and **thanksgiving** in the name of Christ; the **reading**, **preaching**, and **hearing of the Word**; the administration and receiving of the **sacraments**; **church government** and **discipline**; the **ministry and maintenance** thereof, and **vowing** unto him” (LC 108)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- Negatively, we are urged to put off “all devising, counseling, commanding, using and any wise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; tolerating a **false religion**; the making of **any representation of God**, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in **any kind of image or likeness of any creature** whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it; the making of **any representation of feigned deities**, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them; all **superstitious devices**, corrupting the worship of God” (LC 109)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- “**Elements of worship** are things such as the reading and preaching of Scripture; the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper; the presentation of offerings; the singing of psalms and hymns; and, sometimes, the taking of oaths” (Lucas 2006, 120)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- **Circumstances of worship** are things that are necessary for an element to be done. Thus, for example, an element of worship is the singing of psalms and hymns, but a circumstance could be accompanied by an accordion and a banjo. Again, an element in worship is that the reading and preaching of God's Word should occur on the Lord's Day; a circumstance is that it should happen at ten thirty on Sunday morning instead of two o'clock on Sunday afternoon" (Lucas 2006, 120)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- “The Westminster Confession claims that worship is to be directed by Scripture alone in order to preserve the liberty of believer’s conscience (WCF 20.2). Our consciences are only safe when they are under the lordship of Jesus Christ as directed by his Word and Spirit. Though the church’s power to introduce new elements of worship, government, or doctrine is limited by God’s Word, this does not mean that every ‘new way’ of doing worship is necessarily out of bounds....”

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- “We must be careful to discern what is an *essential element* commanded by God’s Word and what is a *circumstantial means* for accomplishing the element. And, above all, as we think about this, we must not forsake one biblical principle—love for our brothers and sisters in Christ—in order to preserve another—liberty of conscience. Rather, we must all commit ourselves to the lordship of Christ as he speaks by his Spirit through Scripture, trusting that, as we all mature in our faith, we will eventually come to the same views” (Lucas 2006, 120-21)

Presbyterian and Reformed Worship

- “I believe that this understanding of worship as being regulated by Scripture makes Presbyterian worship a little different. We are typically reticent to introduce innovations into our worship services. In most Presbyterian churches, plays or movies are not used on Sunday as replacements for the preaching of the Word and administration of the Supper. The move to incorporate audio-visual elements into sermons, or various liturgical movements and positions into worship services, also generally raises questions among Presbyterians. Instead, **Presbyterians, gospel-driven worship is guided and saturated by Scripture**” (Lucas 2006, 121)

Summary

- Worship is regulated by Scripture, both positively and negatively
- Must discern what is “essential” and “circumstantial” elements
- The structure or liturgy of worship is “covenantal” and involves a “two-way movement”
- Since worship is covenantal and transcends class, race, and generations, it should be reflected in music style

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Prelude
Entry of the Word

WE PRAISE GOD

Call to Worship
Choral Response
Hymn of Praise

WE SEEK GOD

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Welcome & Announcements
Hymn of Prayer
The Apostle's Creed (2nd Sunday)
Pastoral Prayer

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Anthem
Scripture Reading
Children's Message
(1st Sun – children leave for Sunday School)
Sermon
Hymn of Response (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sun)

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

(2nd Sunday)

Hymn of Preparation
Sacrament of Holy Communion

WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WORLD

Offertory
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
Hymn of Dedication
Benediction & Three-Fold Amen
Choral Benediction
Postlude

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Prelude

Entry of the Word

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

WE PRAISE GOD

Call to Worship

Choral Response I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine, can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee,
Every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, Saviour, I come to Thee.

Hymn of Praise King of Heaven, Lord Most High

Immortal, invisible, King of Heaven, Lord Most high. Honour now we give to You. Author of eternal life. Power' wisdom, strength and blessing; You are worthy to receive our praise. Immortal, invisible, Lord, to You all praises be!

Immortal, invisible, Ever faithful, ever true. Overcome with love and awe, Lord of hosts we worship You. Now in humble adoration, Placing all before your royal throne. Immortal, invisible, Saviour, we are Yours alone!

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

WE PRAISE GOD

WE SEEK GOD

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn of Prayer Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest
still is high: Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, Till the
storm of life is past; Safe into the haven guide; O
receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul
on Thee; Leave, oh, leave me not alone, Still
support and comfort me. All my trust on Thee is

stayed, All my help from Thee I bring; Cover my
defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in
Thee I find; Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal
the sick and lead the blind. Just and holy is Thy
name, I am all unrighteousness; False and full of
sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to
cover all my sin; Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the
fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee; Spring
Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

The Apostle's Creed (2nd Sunday)

Pastoral Prayer

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

WE PRAISE GOD

WE SEEK GOD

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Anthem

Near the cross

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain, Free to all—a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

(Refrain) In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever; Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me; Help me walk from day to day, With its shadow o'er me. *(Refrain)*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever, Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river. *(Refrain)*

Scripture Reading John 4:1-26

Children's Message (1st Sun)

(children leave for Sunday School)

Sermon

The Heart of Worship

Hymn of Response (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sun)

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

WE PRAISE GOD

WE SEEK GOD

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

(2nd Sunday)

Hymn of Preparation

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; Here would I touch and handle things unseen; Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the Bread of God; Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n; Here would I lay aside each earthly load; Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need Another arm save Thine to lean upon; It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed; My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness, Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood; Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace— Thy blood, Thy righteousness, Lord, my God.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Order of Service

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

WE PRAISE GOD

WE SEEK GOD

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

WE WORSHIP GOD IN HIS WORLD

Offertory

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Hymn of Dedication

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea, A great High Priest whose name is love, Who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on His hands, My name is written on His heart, I know that while in heav'n He stands, No tongue can bid me thence depart, No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair And tells me of the guilt within...

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, My perfect, spotless Righteousness...

Benediction & Three-Fold Amen

Choral Benediction

Postlude