

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 3 Worship

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Introduction

A song by David for going up to worship

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'

oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 122:1

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Psalm+122:1>

Images for song by David for going up to worship

All Lands Summoned to Praise God

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
²Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
³Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
⁵For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 100

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Psalm+100>

Images for Lands Summoned to Praise God

Can I be a Christian without going to church?

In other words, while it may be possible to have a relationship with Christ without being part of a **Christian community**, it's not a good idea. The Holy Spirit is active in community and works through the church. The Holy Spirit gathers the body of Christ to pray for one another and for the world. The Holy Spirit gathers us together so that we might be given courage in faith and strengthened to go out and serve our neighbor in need. We don't come to church because we feel like it. We come to be the body of Christ to worship with our neighbor who needs us to be there. The Holy Spirit gathers us together as church because we need to be there for one another in sadness and in joy!

Spark re:form Leader Guide

Page 123

re:form / Leader Guide - Sparkhouse

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/product/9451/re-form-Leader-Guide>

Images for Christian community

Christian worship - Wikipedia

In Christianity, worship is reverent honor and homage paid to God.^[1] In the New Testament various words are used for worship.

The word proskuneo "to worship" means to bow down to God or kings.^[2]

Throughout most of Christianity's history, corporate Christian worship has been liturgical, characterized by prayers and hymns, with texts rooted in, or closely related to, the Scripture, particularly the Psalter; this form of sacramental and ceremonial worship is still practiced by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican churches, as well as some Protestant denominations such as Lutheranism and Methodism. In Evangelicalism, worship is viewed like an act of adoration of God, with a more informal conception.

The term liturgy is derived from the Greek *leitourgia* meaning "public service" and is formed by two words: "laos" (people) and "ergon" (work), literally "work of the people". Responsorial prayers are a series of petitions read or sung by a leader with responses made by the congregation. Set times for prayer during the day were established (based substantially on Jewish models), and a festal cycle throughout the Church year governed the celebration of feasts and holy days pertaining to the events in the life of Jesus, the lives of the saints, and aspects of the Godhead.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_worship

Images for christian worship

Holy Baptism

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition-Page-228>

Images for bring them to the word of God and the holy supper

Affirmation of Baptism

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition_Page_236

Images for hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper

Luther's Sacristy Prayer

Lord God, You have appointed me as a Bishop and Pastor in Your Church, but you see how unsuited I am to meet so great and difficult a task. If I had lacked Your help, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore, I call upon You: I wish to devote my mouth and my heart to you; I shall teach the people. I myself will learn and ponder diligently upon Your Word. Use me as Your instrument -- but do not forsake me, for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily wreck it all.



<https://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/prayers/sacristy.txt>

Images for Luther's Sacristy Prayer

Martin Luther Quotes About Worship | A-Z Quotes

http://www.azquotes.com/author/9142-Martin_Luther/tag/worship

Images for Martin Luther Quotes About Worship

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER conduct public worship

Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL involve all members in worship

O Worship the King - CyberHymnal

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/hymn/o/w/owtking.htm>

Images for Oh, Worship the King

[PDF] Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Worship is the practice of “stepping away” from our daily lives to intentionally love God. When we worship, we gain a deeper understanding and experience the majesty, mercy and mystery of God. In worship, we praise God for being God, for being our God. Our worship includes joining together regularly in a community; because in Christian community, we collectively bring our talents, gifts, struggles, and joys and offer them to God; we do this as a part of God’s mission, sent to bring love to a broken world.

<http://www.elcayouthministrynetwork.wildapricot.org/Resources/Documents/Practice%20Discipleship/PD1%20Docs/Practice%20Discipleship%20Curriculum%20for%20PD%20Web.pdf>
Images for majesty, mercy and mystery of God

[PDF] “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.”

It’s true that you don’t have to go to church to worship. You can **worship** God in the woods. But when was the last time a tree offered you the full and complete forgiveness of all your sins? – Unknown

http://www.sbcmv.com/home/180002538/180002596/Images/TCYouthHandoutOld_3.pdf
Images for “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.”

Revitalizing Worship is More than a Question of Style - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

The purpose of worship

Perhaps even worse, the obsession with style and the belief that adding a service of a different style is the silver bullet to reverse decline show a deep misunderstanding of worship. The purpose of worship is not to give people ignorant of the faith their first introduction to Christianity. Rather, worship aims to orient our lives — all that we are and do — in the direction of the God in whom we live and move and have our being. This purpose of worship can be fleshed out with three declarations:

- Worship is the place where we enact our core human purpose, the end for which we exist, to worship and glorify God.
- Worship is the place where we have our vision trained to see the signs of God’s in-breaking kingdom.
- Worship is the place where the community remembers its identity as God’s called, gathered, and sent people.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/revitalizing-worship-question-style/>

Images for Revitalizing Worship is More than a Question of Style - Lewis Center for Church Leadership The purpose of worship

<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/50-ways/>

Weekly worship of the Christians. Chapter LXVII.

And we afterwards continually remind each other of these things. And the wealthy among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost. And on the day called Sunday, [1913] all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, [1914] and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, [1915] and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration.

The First Apology of Justin - Bible Hub

http://biblehub.com/library/justin/the_first_apology_of_justin/chapter_lxvii_weekly_worship_of_the.htm

Images for Weekly worship of the early Christians The First Apology of Justin



Saint Justin Martyr

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Martyr

Images for justin the martyr

What Does the Bible Say About Worship? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/worship>

Images for Bible and Worship

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/worship-bible-verses/>

<https://dailyverses.net/worship>

<https://www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/10-bible-verses-about-worship/>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Worship/>

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/20-encouraging-bible-verses-about-worship/>

<https://www.mediashout.com/20-bible-verses-about-worship/>
<https://bible.org/seriespage/10-characteristics-acceptable-worship>
Images for characteristics-acceptable-worship
<https://www.gotquestions.org/worship-service.html>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-worship>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Prayer,-And-Worship>

Why worship matters in a digital age – Craig Mueller

It may very well be that digitization and virtuality are changing what it means to be human. We could argue whether that is for better or worse. But worship grounds us in community, in a balance of work and rest, in the body and in the earth, and in a vocation of mission. Surely worship still matters.

<http://www.lstc.edu/lifelong-learners/resources/craig-mueller-presentation.php>

Images for Why worship matters in a digital age – Craig Mueller

<http://www.holytrinitychicago.org/about/staff>

Worship: A foundation of faith for everything we do - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

While some of the approaches to worship may differ from one ELCA congregation to another, we hold certain things in common.

Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The word proclaimed and the sacraments — both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called the means of grace. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a "gathering around the means of grace."

There is also a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans. We *gather*. We encounter God's *word*. We share a *meal* at the Lord's table. And we are *sent* into the world. But we do not think about worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God's action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship>

Images for Worship: A foundation of faith for everything we do - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Images for worship center of our life of faith

<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/>

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Worship>

Worship and the Work of the People | ...In the Meantime – David Lose

What we commonly call worship is also regularly named "liturgy." That word comes from two Greek words: "laos," meaning people; and "orgia," meaning work. In short, then, liturgy translates quite naturally to mean "the work of the people." In our gathering on Sunday mornings, and in and through similar gatherings of all Christians throughout the world, we come together to give expression to the faith of the Church.

<http://www.davidlose.net/2013/11/worship-and-the-work-of-the-people/>

Images for Worship and the Work of the People | ...In the Meantime – David Lose

<http://www.davidlose.net/2013/12/the-drama-and-rhythm-of-the-church-year/>

Images for drama-and-rhythm-of-the-church-year

Worship is the heart of all we do - The Lutheran Magazine



STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

We are church. At the heart of what we do is worship, and at the heart of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. Everything else we do is formed, nourished, sustained and transformed by our life as a faith community gathered around word and sacrament, abiding in the love of God. Without this intentional, regular communion with God and each other it's not possible for us to speak an authentic word of hope to a broken world — the world God so loves.

When we gather for worship we hear God's word of promise; we confess our helplessness; receive forgiveness; we pray; and we welcome new brothers and sisters through baptism, promising to support them in their walk in faith. We are fed with the bread of life and receive our Lord poured out for us. And then we are sent back into the world. Worship is essential for the church's life and service.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12544

Images for Worship is the heart of all we do - The Lutheran Magazine

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), introduced four emphases that she has invited leaders to consider in their work as an understanding of this church.

During her Feb. 28 report to the ELCA Conference of Bishops, an advisory body of the church that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary, Eaton defined these understandings: "We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world."

As she expounded on each of the four emphases, Eaton said that at the center "of our life together is **worship**, and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified."

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7649>

[Images for worship the center of our life together](#)

<https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop>

Spruce up our spiritual house - The Lutheran Magazine

STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

A clear sense that **worship** is at the heart of what we do together and at the heart of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ — this is the essential foundation for our life and work together. Being clear about our confessional Lutheran identity facilitates our witness to the gospel and makes possible authentic ecumenical, interreligious and secular engagement. Being church together is a manifestation of the unity we have through baptism into the body of Christ. It is a source of strength. It is scriptural. Being church for the sake of the world is the natural extension of being church, Lutheran and church together. We get to participate in God's renewing and reconciling work in the world God so loves.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12261

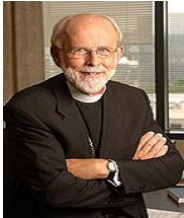
[Images for Spruce up our spiritual house - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

[Images for heart of worship the crucified and risen Christ](#)

Worship Matters

Worship is central to the Christian life. The crucified and risen Christ is present at the center of the assembly gathered around the means of grace. Through the word proclaimed and sacraments celebrated, the Holy Spirit is at work. Lives are changed. Sins are forgiven. The alienated are reconciled. Strangers are welcomed. Unbelief gives way to faith. God is praised. Worship matters!

—Mark S. Hanson, former presiding bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/266/Worship-Matters>

[Images for Worship Matters Worship is central to the Christian life.](#)

<http://www.augsburg.edu/ccv/2014/11/04/markshanson/>

Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship

This 5-session introductory course has been developed to help your community grow into a richer understanding of the foundations of Lutheran worship. With a focus on the principal gathering around word and sacrament, this course explores the foundational questions about why we gather, how we encounter God in worship, and how that encounter shapes our response in both our communities and our world. Topics include the Church Year, the Lectionary, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Corporate Prayer, Worship and Culture, and more.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/195/Worship-Matters>

[Images for Worship Matters: An Introduction to Worship](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gl44ALRIQY> Senior Editor Suzanne Burke on Why Worship Matters - YouTube

[Images for Senior Editor Suzanne Burke on Why Worship Matters - YouTube](#)

Worship Quotes - BrainyQuote

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/worship_3.html

[Images for Worship Quotes](#)

<https://www.mediashout.com/inspiring-worship-quotes/>

<https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-topic/quotes-about-worship/>

<http://christian-quotes.ochristian.com/Worship-Quotes/>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/17-quotes-on-worship.html>

<https://www.viralbeliever.com/christian-quotes/worship-quotes/>

<https://spreadworship.com/blog/worship-quotes/>

<http://www.experiencingworship.com/worship-articles/general/2001-7-Great-Quotes-on.html>

God's Mission and Worship

GOD'S MISSION AND WORSHIP

Jan. 29-31, 2014 - Luther Seminary - St. Paul, Minn.

PURPOSE

"As the second decade of the 21st century begins, we confess that the Holy Spirit is calling and sending the church of Jesus Christ into apostolic mission for the sake of God's world."

The first sentence of Luther Seminary's strategic plan sets an agenda for our Mid-Winter Convocation for 2014 on God's Mission and Worship. Its theological claims undergird the shape of the conference, organized around the Spirit's work in **gathering** for worship, breaking open Jesus' presence in **word** and **meal**, and **sending** in mission to a hurting and hungry world. We join in God's work in Christ through the Spirit at a time when many churches are less sure than ever what their place is in society. Existing assumptions, while sustaining generations before us, seem in need of major revision. Assumptions like:

- Worship is the first place newcomers are going to encounter a given congregation.
- Worship is primarily for the spiritual nurture of the members of a given congregation.
- Visitors understand the Christian faith and its core claims rooted in Scripture.
- Longtime members understand the Christian faith and its core claims rooted in Scripture.

These assumptions are increasingly eroding today. In response to these assumptions, four practitioner/educator pairs will think through fresh theological and practical assumptions of our new era of apostolic mission. What is God up to in our midst, and what is God calling us to be and do? Come to think out loud about how to be a bold and faithful Christian leader in today's changing world. Through stimulating presentations, practical workshops and inspiring worship, you'll gain the concepts and skills to navigate the untrodden paths of the 21st century church wherever God has planted you.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Four theologians, each working in tandem with a missional pastor, present on one movement of the liturgy: Gathering, Word, Meal and Sending. David Lose provides introductions for each speaker.

GATHERING

Jessicah Krey Duckworth, Program Director for Religion, The Lilly Endowment

Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church [Jessicah Krey Duckworth]

While most churches offer 'new member classes' and genuinely seek to welcome visitors, too often the end result is a rush to assimilate the newcomer into formal membership and all of the invitations to participation in committees, choirs, or fellowship groups that go along with it.

In *Wide Welcome*, Jessicah Krey Duckworth presents the stark differences between the established congregation, which cares for current members and congregational identity, and the disestablished one, intentionally equipped to facilitate the encounter between new and established members. By intentionally extending the time of newcomer inquiry and allowing their questions, insights, and experiences to reverberate through the entire congregation both they and the church are changed. *Wide Welcome* does far more than point out the faults and weaknesses in current practice. Duckworth intentionally lays out possible designs for newcomer welcome that are local and particular. At a time when only nine percent of North American Mainline congregations actively and intentionally facilitate newcomer faith formation, *Wide Welcome* is an essential and timely book.



<http://www.amazon.com/Wide-Welcome-Unsettling-Presence-Newcomers/dp/0800699394>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15863513-wide-welcome>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/577/Wide-Welcome>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/wide-welcome-how-unsettling-presence-newcomers-can-save-church>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/welcoming-newcomers-to-your-congregation/>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/wide-welcome-how-the-unsettling-presence-of-newcomers-can-save-the-church/>

<http://www.lpts.edu/about/our-leadership/president/thinking-out-loud/thinking-out-loud/2014/02/18/new-blood>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780800699390/wide-welcome/>

<http://www.bobcornwall.com/2013/10/wide-welcome-how-unsettling-presence-of.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/jessicahduckworth>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessicah-duckworth-99434225>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/jessicah-duckworth/>

<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/5638/Jessicah-Krey-Duckworth>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/jessicah-krey-duckworth>

Images for Jessicah Krey Duckworth

Images for *Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church* [Jessicah Krey Duckworth]

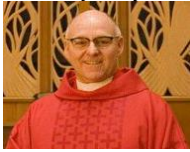
Paul Hoffman, Retired Pastor, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington

Welcome One Another: A Handbook for Hospitality Ministers by Paul Hoffman (Author)

We once believed that as a majority culture in North America everyone knew all there was to know about a church and its surroundings. This certainly is no longer true in a post-Christian North American culture. Most people in our towns and cities, in the neighborhoods and surrounding countryside of our church properties are completely mystified about who we are, what we do, and who is welcome—or not.

Hoffman's inviting prose, which includes many practical proposals, will expand your notions of who hospitality ministers are and why they matter. His own compelling experience suggests that the rewards of our efforts to welcome the stranger will deeply enrich our congregational ministry and our relationships with one another and with God.

This handbook includes many practical proposals that will expand and solidify notions of who hospitality ministers are and why they matter.



<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/22234/Welcome-One-Another-A-Handbook-for-Hospitality-Ministers>

<https://www.amazon.com/Welcome-One-Another-Hospitality-Ministers/dp/1506415970>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35238667-welcome-one-another>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Welcome_One_Another.html?id=EJ2LDQAAQBAJ

<http://www.lutheransnw.org/published-from-our-synod>

<http://www.lutheransnw.org/candidacy>

<http://insanity.blogs.lchwelcome.org/2014/06/20/the-church-is-dying/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Paul-E.-Hoffman/e/B0073GE5I2>

<http://www.faithformingfaith.com/>

Images for Welcome One Another: A Handbook for Hospitality Ministers by Paul Hoffman (Author)

WORD

Al Tizon, Ronald Sider Associate Professor of Holistic Ministry, Palmer Theological

Missional Preaching: Engage Embrace Transform: Al Tizon

An invitation and a challenge to today's church leaders to practice preaching that makes a difference—not only in the church but in the world. Pastor, professor, and missionary Al Tizon offers chapters grounded in biblical themes for mission—and then allows guest preachers to illustrate how those themes may be proclaimed from our pulpits.

Features sermons from Greg Boyd, Shane Claiborne, Brenda Salter-McNeil, Ron Sider, and more!



<http://www.amazon.com/Missional-Preaching-Engage-Embrace-Transform/dp/0817017046>

http://www.missionalchurch.org/pg/br_Tizon.html

<http://mis.sagepub.com/content/41/4/486.full.pdf+html>

<http://erb.kingdomnow.org/missional-preaching-al-tizon-review/>

<http://lhplbr.blogspot.com/2011/11/missional.html>

<http://www.deepdyve.com/lp/sage/book-review-missional-preaching-engage-embrace-transform-0f1DTWh53n>

<http://www.preaching.com/book-reviews/11671619/>

http://margaretmarcuson.com/missional-preaching-a-book-review/#.VYIPC_IVhBc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjJ_NYmRZbw Al Tizon | Shaping Missional Preaching, & "Mission as Transformation" | The GlobalChurch Project – YouTube

Images for Al Tizon | Shaping Missional Preaching, & "Mission as Transformation" | The GlobalChurch Project – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G15AOfaaxkE> 2014 All Staff Gathering: Al Tizon - YouTube

<http://npyou.northpark.edu/Seminary/About-the-Seminary/Full-Time-Faculty/Al-Tizon>

<https://www.amazon.com/Al-Tizon/e/B003861HSM>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2736231.Al_Tizon

Images for Missional Preaching: Engage Embrace Transform: Al Tizon

Ed Searcy, Pastor, University Hill Church, Vancouver, British Columbia

Resources

[PDF] Seven Working Assumptions for Preaching in a Missional Church

What difference is there in preaching for a missional church? The congregation I serve notices that my preaching has changed. But what has changed? It is not simply the way in which these sermons are constructed. The change has less to do with technique (with the 'how to') as it does with the intent (with the 'what for') of this preaching. The biggest difference in preaching for a missional church rests in the assumptions that are made by preachers facing this new context.

Missional preaching is not a new method of preaching. Missional preaching is a different genre of preaching (within which a variety of methods and styles may be faithfully employed). Once the preacher and congregation change their operative assumptions about the purpose of the sermon and the role of the preacher and the calling of the congregation, everything about the occasion of preaching shifts. The following seven working assumptions currently govern every sermon that I preach. And, according to the testimony of the congregation, this changed preaching accounts for significant change within our life together at University Hill Congregation.



<http://www.uhill.net/docs/sevenassumptions.pdf>

Images for Preaching in a Missional Church

<http://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/edwin-searcy>

<http://www.gocn.org/files/1534-newsletter.pdf#page=3>

<http://holyscribbler.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFYmLGnq05A> Ed Searcy – YouTube

<http://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/edwin-searcy>

<http://holyscribbler.blogspot.com/>

<http://uhill.net/searcy.htm>

<http://www.stgeorgesunited.com/blog/2015/5/14/congratulations-to-rev-dr-ed-searcy>

Images for Ed Searcy, Pastor, University Hill Church, Vancouver, British Columbia

Images for Seven Working Assumptions for Preaching in a Missional Church by Ed Searcy

Mission or Mission

This focus on God's mission here, among us, is the hallmark of those who speak about becoming a missional church. No longer is mission something that we do. It is not project oriented, nor is it other oriented. It is focused on the changes God intends in our life together so that our distinctive ways are a sign of God's activity in the world. We do not have the luxury of choosing the nature of the mission. Our mission statement as a church is a given.

1434 Newsletter.pm - the Gospel and Our Culture Network

<http://www.gocn.org/files/1534-newsletter.pdf#page=3>

Images for becoming a missional church

[PDF] Funerals as Counter Cultural ~ Edwin Searcy

This conversation led to another, to one that has begun a significant change in our congregational practices. A voice in the group questioned the way in which we decide whose funeral to attend. We simply take it for granted - in urban, western Canada - that our obligations to attend a funeral or memorial service extend to those who we know as friends or as colleagues or as acquaintances. But the congregation includes people that we do not know well or even at all. Yet each member of the body is crucial to its life, and each death brings pain to the whole (1 Cor. 12). Death is not a private matter that affects only those who are friends and family. It is a public event that affects the whole church and calls the whole congregation together to grieve and to witness to the good news of God in the face of death. Each death is now an occasion to practice what we preach as a people. With each funeral or memorial, we call upon the whole congregation to gather - as it is able - with family and friends as a sign of the gathered saints in the kingdom of God.

<https://yourdevwebsite10.com/funeralhomeconsulting/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Funerals-as-Counter-CulturalEdwin-Searcy.pdf>

Images for Funerals as Counter Cultural ~ Edwin Searcy

Images for gathered saints in the kingdom of God

MEAL

Emily Scott, Pastor, St. Lydia's Church, Brooklyn, New York

St. Lydia's: A Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York > About St. Lydia's

Who Are We?

St. Lydia's is a Dinner Church. We gather every Sunday and Monday night to cook and share a sacred meal. Our congregation is looking for an experience of the Holy that is strong enough to lean on, deep enough to question, and challenging enough to change us.

Our life together is founded on three pillars:

Sharing the Meal: Our worship takes place at the table around a big, delicious meal that we cook together.

Communion is made as we share

Telling Our Story: Jesus told a lot of stories, and so do we. We tell the story of Christ's dying and rising, and through it, uncover the daily dyings and risings that comprise our lives food and ourselves by exploring scripture, singing, and praying together.

Working Together: When you arrive at St. Lydia's, you'll be put straight to work preparing dinner or setting the table. Working together unites us as a community and brings us closer to God.



<http://stlydias.org/about.php>
<https://twitter.com/StLydias>
https://twitter.com/broken_bread?lang=en
<https://www.facebook.com/StLydias/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq9yNljJN6w> St. Lydia's Dinner Church - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yZ6sVdaENq> St. Lydias - Step Right Up! - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3494eHnEyE> Eucharist with St. Lydia.MPG – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8iCD2Nw_DI Stolen Songs and the Trombone of Redemption – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITWvo-AwXBM> Sacred Meals & Sticky Faith: Worship at Dinner Church & Waffle Church - YouTube
http://www.episcopalcafe.com/daily/evangelism/dinner_church.php
<http://www.nyspirit.com/issue/168/spirit-interview/hungry-for-a-connection>
<http://sitandeat.typepad.com/blog/>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/missionalshift/2012/07/dinner-church-at-st-lydias-video/>
<http://www.faithandleadership.com/features/articles/dinner-and-the-gospel-served-st-lydias>
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/st-lydias-microchurch-brooklyn-secret-christians/404119/>
<http://divinity.yale.edu/st-lydias-dinner-church>
<http://bklyner.com/pastor-emily-scott-the-drive-for-communal-connectedness-at-st-lydias-dinner-church-parkslopestoop/>
<http://www.nycreligion.info/origin-story-st-lydias-brooklyn/>
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/photos-of-rev-emily-scott-at-st-lydias-1450410169>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-02/leading-lydia>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2012-03/new-clergy-new-churches>
<http://brooklynbased.com/blog/2015/03/03/st-lydias/>
<http://vimeo.com/55391754> "A Holy Table" by Sean Flynn
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=682872258410369&id=549102085120721
<http://rachelheldevans.com/blog/why-christian-women-follow-friday>
<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rev-emily-m-d-scott>
 Images for rev. emily scott
 Images for St. Lydia's: A Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York

Christian Scharen, Director of Contextual Learning and Asst. Professor of Worship, Luther Seminary

Resources

Broken Hallelujahs: Why Popular Music Matters to Those Seeking God by Christian Scharen (Author)

Building on the success of *One Step Closer: Why U2 Matters to Those Seeking God*, Christian Scharen shows how to engage faith and culture through a wide range of popular music, including the blues, hiphop, and rock. He examines artists such as Arcade Fire, Kanye West, Leonard Cohen, and Billie Holiday, offering a fresh, compelling theology of culture in conversation with C. S. Lewis that can look suffering and brokenness in the face because it knows of a love deeper than hate, a hope stronger than despair. Written engagingly yet with theological depth, this book will resonate with readers interested in the interface between pop culture, music, and theology, as well as with pastors and youth ministers.



<https://www.amazon.com/Broken-Hallelujahs-Popular-Matters-Seeking/dp/1587432501>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11067432-broken-hallelujahs>
<http://christianscharen.com/broken-hallelujahs.html>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V25aM_7O3TQ Christian Scharen - "Broken Hallelujahs" 1 Why Pop Music Matters to Christians – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQfZP8CUII> Christian Scharen - "Broken Hallelujahs" 2 The Dangers of a Constricted Imagination - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vp60D_zsT8 Christian Scharen - "Broken Hallelujahs" 4 God in Pop Culture and Pop Culture in God – YouTube
<http://www.thebrazosblog.com/2011/12/video-broken-hallelujahs-as-a-theology-of-culture/>
<http://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/review/broken-hallelujahs-why-popular-music-matters-to-those-seeking-god>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2012/06/09/saturday-book-review-christian-scharen/>
<https://ourblues.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/why-god-loves-the-blues.pdf>
<https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh...27%3AChristian%20Scharen>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/56638.Christian_Scharen

Images for christian scharen, author

[Images for Broken Hallelujahs: Why Popular Music Matters to Those Seeking God by Christian Scharen \(Author\)](#)

Serving the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers [Christian Scharen]

The assisting minister provides, alongside the presiding minister, a consistent presence guiding the assembly's worship, from Gathering to Sending. The assisting minister's leadership in such a significant role will only improve by knowing some history and theology of the liturgy alongside practice with competent teachers.

In this small handbook you will find a brief history of assisting ministers in Christian worship, what makes a good assisting minister, a step-by-step walk through the role, and lots of tips and encouragement. *Serving the Assembly's Worship* invites assisting ministers to approach this role not just as a task, but as a ministry to the whole assembly. Filled with tips and encouragement for the assisting minister, this helpful resource will be used again and again. *Serving the Assembly's Worship* invites assisting ministers to approach this role not just as a task, but as a ministry to the whole assembly.

<http://www.amazon.com/Serving-Assemblies-Worship-Assisting-Ministers/dp/1451478089>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18510330-serving-the-assembly-s-worship>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/609/Serving-the-Assembly-Worship-A-Handbook-for-Assisting-Ministers>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/serving-the-assemblys-worship-christian-scharen/1116462759>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451479255>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_can_lay_people_participate_in_worship_leadership.pdf

http://www.luthersem.edu/contextual_learning/blog.aspx?post=2508

<http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Seeds/2014/01/140120-Worship-matters-really>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ub5pToP0jw> Preaching Moment 033: Christian Scharen - YouTube

<http://auburnseminary.org/team/christian-scharen/>

<http://www.myplc.org/Documents/Training%20Manuals/AM%20MANUALWEB7192010.pdf>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/christian-scharen>

https://twitter.com/ChrisScharen?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ot2go-0AAAAJ&hl=en>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/56638.Christian_Scharen

[Images for Christian Scharen](#)

[Images for Serving the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers \[Christian Scharen\]](#)

SENDING

Cláudio Carvalhaes, Associate Professor of Worship and Liturgy, Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia

Eucharist and Globalization: Redrawing the Borders of Eucharistic Hospitality [Cláudio Carvalhaes]

The ritual of eating and drinking together is one of the most important Christian events. Often called Eucharist, Lord's Supper, or Communion, this sacrament is about the presence of Christ transforming not only those who participate in it but also the world. In this book, the authors engage this Christian liturgical act with movements of people around our globalized world and checks the sacramental borders of hospitality. The author calls our attention to the sacramental practices of Reformed churches and, from this liturgical practice, challenges Christian churches to expand the borders of hospitality.



<http://www.amazon.com/Eucharist-Globalization-Redrawing-Eucharistic-Hospitality/dp/1610973461>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Globalization_and_the_Borders_of_Liturgi.html?id=QDQ7OAAACAAJ

<http://mccormick.edu/news/cl%C3%A1udio-carvalhaes-interviewed-different-drummers>

<http://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com/about-me/>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/6958/uncontainable-love>

<http://www.pres-outlook.com/big-tent-articles/18668-speaker-stresses-role-of-multiplicity-in-culture-faith-and-worship.html>

<http://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com/about-me/>

[Images for Eucharist and Globalization: Redrawing the Borders of Eucharistic Hospitality \[Cláudio Carvalhaes\]](#)

Why Worship?

Dirk Lange in a keynote address *Prayer and Resistance: Living Our Baptismal Vocation* as a part of the Mid-Winter Convocation 2013 at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN on *Worship in a Time of Change* cites Martin Luther that worship is for two reasons:

- To glorify God
- For the sake of the neighbor

Mid-Winter Convocation - YouTube

2013 Mid-Winter Convocation – Reorienting Life: The Gospel Preached and Distributed – Dirk Lange

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=094tS51pPBk&index=16&t=0s&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053>

2013 Mid-Winter Convocation – Prayer and Resistance: Living our Baptismal Vocation– Dirk Lange

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcUjFon40wE&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=16>



https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=dlange001

Images for *Prayer and Resistance: Living Our Baptismal Vocation* by Dirk Lange

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oW1O5aU8cLs> Preaching Moment 062: Dirk Lange – YouTube

Resources

Broken Before Burning by David Lose - Working Preacher

The Emmaus story is one of my favorites. Part of that, as I mentioned the last time this passage came up, is because I think it is Luke's great promise about Christian worship. Think about the four-part movement of the narrative: 1) the two travelers are met on the road, 2) have the scriptures opened, 3) share in a meal that reveals the identity and presence of Christ, 4) and then are sent to share and live the good news. That strikes me as remarkably parallel to the classic Christian pattern of worship involving **gathering, word, meal, and sending**. So just as John closes his gospel with words of Jesus addressed to Thomas that are really addressed to his community and to us, so here Luke tells us a story about two disciples that is really a story that makes a promise to those reading the gospel then and now: in Christian worship, you will be encountered by the risen Christ.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3188>

Images for Christian worship encountered by the risen Christ

J. S. Bach: Soli Deo Gloria - To the Glory of God Alone

“Jesus Help Me”

Even though the Duke gave Johann the freedom to write what he wanted, Johann never forgot that it was God who made the music through him. Whenever he began a new piece, he bowed his head and prayed. “Jesus, help me show your glory through the music I write. May it bring you joy even as it brings joy to your people.” Without Jesus' help, Johann knew he'd never be able to complete the task. Before writing even one note, Johann carefully formed the letters J J at the top of the page. With that, the music began to pour from his soul and onto the page. When he was finally satisfied, he wrote the letters SDG at the bottom of the page. He hoped that when the music was played it would point toward God.

<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/j-s-bach-soli-deo-gloria-to-the-glory-of-god-alone-11635057.html>

Images for J. S. Bach: Soli Deo Gloria - To the Glory of God Alone

Reflections and Resources

1) Pray, praise, and give thanks

What is the purpose of life? Martin Luther in the explanation to second commandment in the Small Catechism says the purpose of life is to call upon God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, **pray, praise and give thanks.**

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall keep the day of rest holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

Images for pray, praise and give thanks

2) Glorify God and enjoy God forever

What is the chief end of human life? The Reformed tradition states that the chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Resources

Westminster Shorter Catechism - Reformed.org

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. **Man's chief end is to glorify God,^[1] and to enjoy him forever.^[2]**

^[1] Psalm 86. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy. Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me. Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them. But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. O turn unto me and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. Show me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me. Isaiah 60:21. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. Romans 11:36. For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. 1 Corinthians 6:20, 10:31. For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.... Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Revelation 4:11. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

^[2] Psalm 16:5-11. The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand, there are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 144:15. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD. Isaiah 12:2. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Luke 2:10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Philippians 4:4. Rejoice in the Lord always: and, again, I say, Rejoice. Revelation 21:3-4. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

http://www.reformed.org/documents/wsc/index.html?_top=http://www.reformed.org/documents/WSC.html
Images for man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever

What's the Point of Worship?

What is the chief end of humanity?

The proper answer from the Westminster Confession: **The chief end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.**

The Christian faith is a matter of God's offer of love in Christ and our response to that love. We respond to God's love with our loving acts of service toward those in need in the church and in the world. And yet we respond to God's love, not only by loving deeds of service to others, but also by simply doing the things we do for God because God is God and we are God's children.

We are called not simply to obey God but also to glorify God. Above all, we are called to enjoy God. We are called to worship.

<http://willimon.blogspot.com/2007/02/whats-point-of-worship.html>

Images for chief end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Willimon

<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/william-willimon>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/william-h-willimon>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-H.-Willimon/e/B001IGHNA0>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/10467.William_H_Willimon

3) Practice for eternity

This comparatively brief period here on earth can be understood as practice for eternity.

A sevenfold ascription of praise to God

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

oremus Bible Browser: Rev 7:9-12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=215107830>

Images for sevenfold ascription of praise to God

Doxology marking the end of the Psalter

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

²Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 150:1-6

<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=270536476>

Images for Doxology marking the end of the Psalter

Worship now is a foretaste of things to come. Considering the great multitude in heaven, I figure there will be a wide variety of ways to worship God. Worship in a variety of ways for this short time here on this earth prepares people of God for the grand and glorious worship that will know no end.

Resources

A Taste of Heaven: Worship in the Light of Eternity by R. C. Sproul (Author)

Dr. Sproul examines the key components of prayer, praise, and sacrifices that God gave to His people in the Old Testament.

He shows how biblical principles can guide today's worshipers, for the **Lord has designed worship to give His people a taste of heaven.**

http://www.sola-scriptura.ca/store/shop/store.php?cm=209&rn=716&action=show_detail

<https://www.amazon.com/Taste-Heaven-Worship-Light-Eternity/dp/1567690769>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/567020.A_Taste_of_Heaven

<http://www.christianity.com/church/worship-and-hymns/excerpt-from-a-taste-of-heaven-worship-in-the-light-of-eternity-11561795.html>

https://books.google.com/books/about/A_Taste_of_Heaven.html?id=gTXCAQAACAAJ

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1434705560>

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<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/erikraymond/2011/01/28/book-review-a-taste-of-heaven-by-r-c-sproul/>

<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-excerpt.php?isbn=1567690769>

<https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/a-taste-of-heaven-by-r-c-sproul>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._C._Sproul

<https://www.amazon.com/R.-C.-Sproul/e/B000APQIVU>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1250965.R_C_Sproul

[Images for R. C. Sproul \(Author\)](#)

[Images for A Taste of Heaven: Worship in the Light of Eternity by R. C. Sproul \(Author\)](#)

[Dress Rehearsal for Heaven | Programs | Revive Our Hearts](#)

We praise God not only because we're joining in with others in creation when we praise Him, but we praise Him because praise is the primary eternal occupation of heaven.

<https://www.reviveourhearts.com/radio/revive-our-hearts/dress-rehearsal-for-heaven-1/>

[Images for Dress Rehearsal for Heaven | Programs | Revive Our Hearts](#)

[practicing eternity | Gateway Devotions](#)

A taste of heaven is waiting for you. Practice eternity today. Worship the King!

<http://gatewaydevotions.com/day-31>

[Images for A taste of heaven is waiting for you. Practice eternity today. Worship the King!](#)

[Preparing for Eternity—On Purpose](#)

Q: So, you want to help Christians gain a fresh perspective on the big picture?

A: **Yes. People ask me, "What is the purpose of life?" And I respond, "In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity."** We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body—but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity.

This is the warm-up act, the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

<https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/november-2004/preparing-for-eternity-on-purpose/>

[Images for life is preparation for eternity](#)

[Rehearsing for Heaven | Reformed Worship](#)

Extensive. Exuberant. Eternal. Evangelical. When these words begin to describe our Sunday worship, we will be doing more than rejoicing in the excitement of a rehearsal for "the real thing" yet to come. **Sunday's worship will truly begin to serve as an appetizer, a brief taste, of the thrill that will soon be ours in heaven's courts.**

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1988/rehearsing-heaven>

[Images for Rehearsing for Heaven | Reformed Worship](#)

[The Purpose of Life | AllWorship.com](#)

(This is an excerpt from an interview several years ago by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and Pastor of Saddleback Church in California. During the interview, Rick said:)

People ask me, what is the purpose of life?

And I respond: In a nutshell, life is **preparation for eternity.** We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

<http://www.allworship.com/purpose-life/>

[Images for Purpose of Life | AllWorship.com](#)

[Images for life is preparation for eternity](#)

<http://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/november-2004/preparing-for-eternity-on-purpose/>

[Images for preparing-for-eternity-on-purpose](#)

[True Worship a Foretaste of Heaven - Bible Hub](#)

[Revelation 4:6](#)

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like to crystal: and in the middle of the throne, and round about the throne...

Now, what are the characteristic features, so to call them, of the perfect worship of heaven, which are touched on in the text?

http://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/wilson/true_worship_a_foretaste_of_heaven.htm

[Images for True Worship a Foretaste of Heaven](#)

[Worship: Practice for Eternity | Faithlife Blog](#)

There are many activities we do in this life as Christians that we won't do in heaven. We will never evangelize anyone in heaven. We will never share the gospel or hand out a tract. We will not pray for needs in heaven—there will be no reason to.

However, there is one activity we will continue to do in heaven: worship. We will worship God forever. **Given this, we can look at worship in this life as a kind of "practice" for eternity.**

<https://blog.faithlife.com/blog/2015/08/worship-practice-for-eternity/>

[Images for Worship: Practice for Eternity | Faithlife Blog](#)

4) Choices

God makes a choice.

[I am the Lord thy God - Wikipedia](#)

"I am the LORD thy God" ([KJV](#), also "I am Yahweh your God" [NJB](#), [WEB](#)) is the opening phrase of the [Ten Commandments](#), which are widely understood as moral imperatives by ancient legal historians and Jewish and Christian biblical scholars.^{[1][2]}

The text of the Ten Commandments according to the [Book of Exodus](#) begins:

I am Yahweh your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above,

or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

— Exodus 20:2-6 (WEB)

The conventional "the LORD" in [English translations](#) renders יהוה in the Hebrew text (transliterated "YHWH"), the proper name of the God of Israel, reconstructed as *Yahweh*.^[3] The translation "God" renders אֱלֹהִים (transliterated "Elohim"), the normal biblical Hebrew word for "god, deity".^[citation needed]

The introduction to the Ten Commandments establishes the identity of God by both his personal name and his historical act of delivering Israel from Egypt. The language and pattern reflects that of ancient royal treaties in which a great king identified himself and his previous gracious acts toward a subject king or people.^[4]

Establishing his identity through the use of the proper name, *Yahweh*, and his mighty acts in history distinguishes Yahweh from the gods of Egypt which were judged in the killing of Egypt's firstborn (Exodus 12) and from the gods of Canaan, the gods of the gentile nations, and the gods that are worshipped as idols, starry hosts, or things found in nature, and the gods known by other proper names.^[5] So distinguished, Yahweh demands exclusive allegiance from the [Israelites](#).^[6] "I am the LORD your God" occurs a number of other times in the Bible also.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_am_the_Lord_thy_God

Images for I am the Lord thy God

God places a choice in front of people.

The Covenant at Shechem

¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

[oremus Bible Browser: Joshua 24:14-15](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Joshua+24:14-15&version=nrsv>

Images for Covenant at Shechem

God gives the gift of faith.

THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but **the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith**; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

Images for Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel

5) Narcissus or Jesus?

Stand at the foot of the cross and worship the crucified one.

Worship the god of Narcissus at the altar of affluenza.

Crucifixion of Jesus - Wikipedia

Collectively referred to as the [Passion](#), Jesus' suffering and redemptive death by crucifixion are the central aspects of [Christian theology](#) concerning the doctrines of [salvation](#) and [atonement](#).



Crucifixion, from the [Buhl Altarpiece](#). A particularly large [Gothicoil on panel](#) painting from the 1490s.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus
Images for crucifixion of jesus

Narcissus (mythology) - Wikipedia

In [Greek mythology](#), Narcissus (/nɑːrˈsɪsɪs/; [Greek](#): Νάρκισσος, *Nárkissos*) was a hunter from [Thespieae](#) in [Boeotia](#) who was known for his beauty. He was the son of the river god [Cepheissus](#) and nymph [Liriope](#).^[1] He was proud, in that he disdained those who loved him. [Nemesis](#) noticed this behavior and attracted Narcissus to a pool, where he saw his own reflection in the water and fell in love with it, not realizing it was merely an image. Unable to leave the beauty of his reflection, Narcissus lost his will to live. He stared at his reflection until he died. Narcissus is the origin of the term *narcissism*, a fixation with oneself and one's physical appearance or public perception.



Narcissus by [Caravaggio](#) depicts Narcissus gazing at his own reflection.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_(mythology))
Images for Narcissus (mythology)

The gospel is not a new philosophy

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

oremus Bible Browser: [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=55757277>

Images for gospel is not a new philosophy

Resources

Affluenza: PBS Program on the Epidemic of Overconsumption

Af-flu-en-za n. 1. The bloated, sluggish and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by dogged pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth. 4. A television program that could change your life.

Affluenza is a one-hour television special that explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption. Here you can learn more about the [show](#), get an Affluenza [diagnosis](#) and check out resources for [treatment](#). Don't miss our Teacher's Guide available only on this Web site.

[Escape from Affluenza](#) is the solution-oriented sequel to Affluenza. Hosted by Wanda Urbanska, co-author of Simple Living, Escape picks up where Affluenza left off by profiling people and organizations that are reducing consumption and waste, choosing work that reflects their values and working to live in better balance with the environment.

Affluenza is a production of KCTS/Seattle and Oregon Public Broadcasting and was made possible by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/>

Images for Affluenza: PBS Program on the Epidemic of Overconsumption

Affluenza - Wikipedia

Affluenza, a [portmanteau](#) of *affluence* and *influenza*, is a term used by critics of [consumerism](#). The book *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* defines it as "a painful, [contagious](#), socially transmitted condition of overload, [debt](#), [anxiety](#), and [waste](#) resulting from the dogged pursuit of more."^[1] The term "affluenza" has also been used to refer to inability to understand the consequences of one's actions because of financial privilege, notably in the case of [Ethan Couch](#).^[2]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affluenza>

Images for Affluenza

Enemies of the Cross of Christ

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

[Philippians 3:18-20 - Bible Gateway](#)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3:18-20>

Images for Enemies of the Cross of Christ

[41 best Affluenza images on Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/femininewear/affluenza/>

Images for Affluenza on Pinterest

[The Cult of the Self and the Command of Jesus | Desiring God](#)

As I see it, the meaning of the command, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," is this: our Lord is aiming to call into being loving, compassionate, merciful men and women whose hearts summon them irresistibly into action when there is suffering within their reach. And to that end he demands that they again and again ask themselves this question: am I desiring and seeking the temporal and eternal good of my neighbor with the same zeal, ingenuity and perseverance that I seek my own?

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-cult-of-the-self-and-the-command-of-jesus>

Images for The Cult of the Self and the Command of Jesus

[The Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations by Christopher Lasch \(Author\)](#)

When *The Culture of Narcissism* was first published, it was clear that Christopher Lasch had identified something important: what was happening to American society in the wake of the decline of the family over the last century.

The book quickly became a bestseller. This edition includes a new afterword, "The Culture of Narcissism Revisited."

<https://www.amazon.com/Culture-Narcissism-American-Diminishing-Expectations/dp/0393307387>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/151878.The_Culture_of_Narcissism

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-culture-of-narcissism-christopher-lasch/1122989164>

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/The-Culture-of-Narcissism/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0393307387>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Culture_of_Narcissism_American_Life.html?id=7zhc7oT80SQC

<https://launiusr.wordpress.com/2012/04/16/reflecting-on-christopher-lasch-and-the-culture-of-narcissism/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/07/books/review/Siegel-t.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Culture_of_Narcissism

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRJl54Y_VCk Christopher Lasch The Pursuit of Progress (1/2) – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbJIULQouZk> Christopher Lasch The Pursuit of Progress (2/2) - YouTube

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Lasch

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Author.aspx?id=6297>

<https://www.amazon.com/Christopher-Lasch/e/B000APM2QU>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/87816.Christopher_Lasch

Images for Christopher Lasch (Author)

Images for The Culture of Narcissism by Christopher Lasch (Author)

[24 Best Narcissus: Greek god of Beauty images - Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/adanionm/narcissus-greek-god-of-beauty/>

Images for Narcissus: Greek god of Beauty - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/4invoorborg/affluenza/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/marenlouise/anti-consumerism-fighting-affluenza/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/explore/affluenza-case/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/affluenza-movie/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/helviobenicio/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/superstructure/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/HoIVol/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/archaddonel/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/wytshoving/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/kalach9/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/magistramichaud/narcissus-echo/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/faitheyenawine/narcissus/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/grantra2/narcissism-and-narcissus/>

[Youth Ministry 101: Follow Me: Facebook, Narcissus or Jesus - YouTube](#)

Do you agree that we will inevitably follow someone? Adam Ericksen and the Raven Foundation turn their focus onto present daily popular culture and the effect that Social Networking medias affect our narcissism. In today's society, the media helps us to define who we are and how we are supposed to act and act in our world. There are many advantages to social networking websites, the development of large communities on these websites assist us in finding others to help us to cultivate meaningful relationships and conversations. The Raven Foundation asks for you input on this subject.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCMNAfJoEjI>

Images for Youth Ministry 101: Follow Me: Facebook, Narcissus or Jesus - YouTube

6) With or apart?

Live *with* God for now and all of eternity.

Live *apart* from God for now and all of eternity.

Resources

Living in the Light of Eternity: Discovering God's Design for Your Life by K. P. Yohannan (Author)

Takes a fresh look at biblical discipleship.

<https://www.amazon.com/Living-Light-Eternity-Discovering-Design/dp/1595890041>

<https://www.gfa.org/resource/books/living-in-the-light-of-eternity/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K._P._Yohannan

http://www.newreleasetoday.com/authordetail.php?aut_id=350 KP Yohannan Author Profile | Biography and Bibliography

<https://www.amazon.com/K.P.-Yohannan/e/B003N7GLA0>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/120926.K_P_Yohannan

[Images for K. P. Yohannan \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Living in the Light of Eternity: Discovering God's Design for Your Life by K. P. Yohannan \(Author\)](#)

The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For? by Rick Warren

While life on earth offers many choices, eternity offers only two: heaven or hell. Your relationship to God on earth will determine your relationship to him in eternity. If you learn to love and trust God's Son, Jesus, you will be invited to spend the rest of eternity with him. On the other hand, if you reject his love, forgiveness, and salvation, you will spend eternity apart from God. forever.

C. S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God '*Thy will be done*' and those to whom God says, '*All right then, have it your way.*'" Tragically, many people will have to endure eternity without God because they chose to live without him here on earth.

When you fully comprehend that there is more to life than just here and now, and you realize that life is just preparation for eternity, you will begin to live differently. You will start *living in light of eternity*, and that will color how you handle every relationship, task, and circumstance. Suddenly many activities, goals, and even problems that seemed so important will appear trivial, petty, and unworthy of your attention. The closer you live to God, the smaller everything else appears.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310296110>

Day 4 Made to Last Forever

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310329337>

We were planned for God's pleasure

so, your first purpose is to offer real worship.

<http://purposedriven.com/books/pdlbook/#purpose>

[Images for we were planned for God's pleasure](#)

[Images for first purpose is to offer real worship](#)

Licensed in over eighty-five languages, *The Purpose Driven Life* is far more than just a book; it is a guide to a spiritual journey. Once you take this journey, you'll never be the same again.

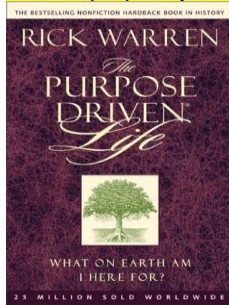
On your journey you'll find the answers to three of life's most important questions:

- The Question of Existence: *Why am I alive?*
- The Question of Significance: *Does my life matter?*
- The Question of Purpose: *What on earth am I here for?*

Living out the purpose you were created for moves you beyond mere survival and success to a life of significance—the life you were meant to live.

Five benefits of knowing your purpose:

1. It will explain the meaning of your life.
2. It will simplify your life.
3. It will focus your life.
4. It will increase your motivation.
5. It will prepare you for eternity.



<https://www.amazon.com/Purpose-Driven-Life-What-Earth/dp/031033750X>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/56495.The_Purpose_Driven_Life

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/purpose-driven-life-rick-warren/1100162099>

<https://www.christianbook.com/purpose-driven-life-what-earth-here/rick-warren/9780310264835/pd/64839>
<http://purposedriven.com/books/pdlbook/#purpose>
<http://www.purposedriven.com/day1/>
<https://store.pastors.com/products/expanded-purpose-driven-life-book-hardcover>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWWZikUO8qE> What on Earth Am I Here For? Small Group Bible study by Rick Warren
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7_K6VCEpWM What On Earth Am I Here For? The Purpose Driven Life Expanded Edition
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjD7PGBAwxc> What On Earth Am I Here For?: The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren Group Bible Study – Trailer – YouTube
Images for What On Earth Am I Here For? by Rick Warren - YouTube
https://www.ted.com/talks/rick_warren_on_a_life_of_purpose
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-310-20571-5> Nonfiction Book Review
<https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/book-review-rick-warrens-the-purpose-driven-life>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purpose_Driven_Life
<http://pastorrick.com/series/what-on-earth-am-i-here-for>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Warren
<http://saddleback.com/visit/about/pastors/our-pastor>
<https://www.facebook.com/pastorrickwarren/>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertlaura/2013/03/21/pastor-rick-warren-is-practicing-what-he-preaches-and-getting-ready-for-retirement/#22af2e1f4dbf>
<https://www.amazon.com/Rick-Warren/e/B000APD9C6>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/711.Rick_Warren
[Images for rick warren, author](#)
[Images for The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For? by Rick Warren](#)

7) Ultimate and penultimate

Relationship to God.

Relationship to others and everything else.

Resources

Bonhoeffer's Ethics Pt 6: Ultimate and Penultimate Things | Tim Chester

Bonhoeffer examines the significance of ultimate and penultimate things, and their relationship with each other. The ultimate is justification of a sinner by grace alone. The penultimate is all that precedes the ultimate and all that is addressed as penultimate after finding the ultimate.

<https://timchester.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/bonhoeffers-ethics-pt-6-ultimate-and-penultimate-things/>

[Images for Bonhoeffer's Ethics: Ultimate and Penultimate Things](#)

Great Commandment - Wikipedia

The Great Commandment (or Greatest Commandment)^[1] is a name used in the New Testament to describe the first of two commandments cited by Jesus in Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–34, and Luke 10:27a.

In Mark, when asked "which is the great commandment in the law?", the Greek New Testament reports that Jesus answered, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord Our God, The Lord is One; Thou shalt love thy Lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind";^[2] before also referring to a second commandment, "And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."^[3] Most Christian denominations consider these two commandments to be the core of correct Christian lifestyle.^[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Commandment

[Images for Great Commandment](#)

What is the difference between ultimate and penultimate? | WikiDiff

As nouns the difference between *ultimate* and *penultimate*

is that *ultimate* is the most basic or fundamental of a set of things while *penultimate* is a next-to-last thing.

<http://wikidiff.com/ultimate/penultimate>

[Images for What is the difference between ultimate and penultimate?](#)