



**Unitarian Universalist Liturgy and Worship Arts**

LS-2400

Spring 2024

Required Texts:

Arnason, Wayne B. and Kathleen Rolenz, *Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists, Second Edition* (Skinner House Books, 2017). ISBN: 9781558965263 Kindle edition. \$9.99.

Lewis, Jacqueline, *The Power of Stories: A Guide for Leading Multi-Racial and Multi-Cultural Congregations* (Abingdon Press, 2008). ISBN: 0687650690, \$15.

Searle, Edward, *Beyond Absence: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings On Death and Remembrance* (Skinner House Books, 2005) ISBN: 9781558964921 UUA Bookstore \$15

Bayles, David and Ted Orland, *Art and Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking* (Image Continuum Press, 2001) ISBN: 0961454733. \$12  
<https://archive.org/details/artfear00davi>

Brooks, Becky and Erika Hewitt, *Story, Song, and Spirit: Fun and Creative Worship Services for all Ages* (Skinner House Books, 2010) ISBN:9781558965461 UUA Bookstore \$12

Priya Parker, *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters* (Penguin Random House, 2018). ISBN-10: 9780698410879 \$13 **Available DTL2**

Schulman, Frank, *A Manual of Worship: Insights from over 50 Years as a Unitarian Universalist Minister* (UUA, 2006) ISBN: 9780978594909 \$14

*Engaging Our Theological Diversity*, A Report by the Commission on Appraisal Unitarian Universalist Association, May 2005, <https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/coa/engagingourtheodiversity.pdf>.

Paul Rasor. *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the Twentieth Century*. (Skinner House Books, 2005) ISBN: 1558964843 Price: \$3-14. **Available DTL2**

Rebecca Ann Parker. *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*, edited by Rob Hardies (Skinner House Books, 2006). ISBN: 9781558965157 \$19.15

## CLASS SCHEDULE

*(Note: the instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule; if changes are made, efforts will be made to consider student needs and communicate changes in a timely manner)*

<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan.29-</b> <b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>Why do we worship? What is liturgy?</b> Preparation: Familiarize yourself with the syllabus <b>Due:</b> a brief self-introduction, including your personal experience of worship (good & bad), and <u>your current outline of the elements of typical UU congregational worship.</u> <b>Prepare:</b> Find, view and be prepared to share a video of one (just one!) good example of inclusive, transformative, liberatory worship. It need not be UU! Suggested sources include Middle Church NYC, St. Gregory's SF; Allen Temple, Oakland; and UU churches both urban and non-urban.
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Feb. 5-11</b>	<b>Examples of inclusive, transformative, anti-oppressive current worship.</b>

	<p><b>Share:</b> a brief comment on the video you have chosen to share.</p> <p><b>Pair:</b> with a fellow student to plan, along with Pastor Jacqueline Duhart, SKSM Director of Spiritual Care, to create and lead SKSM Chapel later this semester. Typically, this involves one or two planning meetings and a dress rehearsal, each about an hour in length.</p> <p><b>Prepare:</b> Read ahead in the syllabus. Consider what makes for effective worship. Consider the challenges and advantages of online and hybrid worship.</p> <p>Read – Introduction and Chapter 7 from Jacqueline Lewis and John Janka, <i>Ten Essential Strategies for Becoming a Multiracial Congregation</i> (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), which will be posted to the course Populi site</p> <p>Read – <a href="https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/worship-associates-west-shore">Worship Associates Training Sample</a> <a href="https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/worship-associates-west-shore">https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/worship-associates-west-shore</a></p> <p><b>Select:</b> An element of worship to investigate historically.</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b> <b>Feb. 12-18</b></p>	<p><b>Back in time: Where do liturgies come from? How do they develop? Or die?</b></p> <p>Read or view: documents or videos TBD on how synagogue liturgy developed into early Christian liturgy, the rites of baptism and eucharist (communion); Protestant reform liturgies; early Unitarian liturgies in England, Transylvania.</p> <p>Examine: <i>Hymns of the Spirit, with Services of Religion</i> (Beacon Press, 1937) <i>Hymns for the Celebration of Life</i> (1963), <i>Singing the Living Tradition</i> (1993); current UUA Worship Web resources (the good, the bad, and the missing).</p> <p><b>Share:</b> reactions; begin to think about this question: what should be in the next UU hymnal and worship book?</p> <p><b>Select:</b> pairs or individuals to investigate the sources and development of newer UU liturgies and worship practices: the lighting a flaming chalice; candle lighting and/or joys &amp; sorrows; flower communion; water communion; collaboration with worship associates; land acknowledgments.</p>
<p><b>Week 4</b> <b>Feb. 19-25</b></p>	<p><b>Dimensions and dilemmas in current UU worship practices.</b></p> <p><b>Due:</b> A brief paper (4-6 pages, double-spaced, annotated) on how some element typical of UU liturgies is rooted in history.</p> <p><b>View:</b> a video by the instructor on the dimensions of worship, including the assertion that creating comfort and even regression (a sense of being at home) can be essential to transformative worship serving the cause of liberation.</p> <p>Read – Examine the sample liturgies and reading available on Moodle</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb. 26 –</b> <b>March 3</b></p>	<p><b>Visions and challenges of contemporary worship and liturgies</b></p> <p><b>Due:</b> Paper on the history of Unitarian and Universalist and Unitarian Universalist liturgies from the Protestant Reformation to the present, highlighting significant shifts and transitions. Suggested length: 5-7 pages double spaced. Students may choose to focus on a narrower timeframe, for example 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present or Unitarian Universalist merger to the present. The thesis of the paper should clearly identify the time frame and what aspects of liturgy the paper will address.</p> <p>Preparation:</p>

	<p>Read – <i>Worship that Works</i> pages 1-54</p> <p>View – Attend a Unitarian Universalist worship service livestreamed or watch a recording. Take notes and bring them with you to class noting the following:  1) Reflect on the worship service through the lens of this week’s reading. What did you notice?  2) Reflect on the worship through the lens of worship that fosters multireligious, counter-oppressive, liberatory communities or congregations. What did you notice?  3) Which elements of worship were most meaningful/worshipful/transformative and why?</p>
<p><b>Week 6</b>  <b>March 4-10</b></p>	<p><b>Qualities of transformative worship</b></p> <p>Preparation:  Read – <i>Worship that Works</i> pages 55-128</p> <p>View – Attend a Unitarian Universalist worship service livestreamed or watch a recording. Take notes and bring them with you to class noting the following:  1) Reflect on the worship service through the lens of this week’s reading. What did you notice?  2) Reflect on the worship through the lens of worship that fosters multireligious, counter-oppressive, liberatory communities or congregations. What did you notice?  3) Which elements of worship were most meaningful/worshipful/transformative and why?</p>
<p><b>Week 7</b>  <b>March 11-17</b></p>	<p><b>Practical details of specific elements of liturgy</b></p> <p>Due: Family genogram (3 or 4 generations)</p> <p>Preparation:  Read – <i>The Art of Worship Planning</i> by Erica Hewitt  <a href="https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/what-i-learned-about-worship-watching-food-network-art-worship-planning">https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/what-i-learned-about-worship-watching-food-network-art-worship-planning</a></p> <p>Read – <i>Worship that Works</i> pages 129-184</p> <p>Bring with you to class your own writing for 3 elements of the worship service selected from this list: invocation, welcome, chalice lighting, prayer, meditation, introduction to an anthem/major music piece. Create a topic for the worship service and outline the “setting,” i.e. congregational size, location, composition, what kind of worship service, etc.</p>
<p><b>Reading Week</b>  <b>March 18-24</b></p>	
<p><b>Week 8</b>  <b>March 25-31</b></p>	<p><b>Focus on music, story, and aesthetics</b></p> <p>Preparation:  View - UUs, Music and Appropriation with DeReau K. Farrar and Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout - The VUU #196  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW8kiCkbA-8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW8kiCkbA-8</a></p> <p>Read – There is More Love Somewhere  <a href="https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/there-more-love-somewhere">https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/there-more-love-somewhere</a></p> <p>View – one worship service from here:  <a href="https://www.uuaa.org/index.php/worship/on-sunday/sermons-forums-2/online-service-videos">https://www.uuaa.org/index.php/worship/on-sunday/sermons-forums-2/online-service-videos</a></p>

	<p>Read – Copyright policy <a href="https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/board-policy/fiduciary-policies/copyright-policy">https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/board-policy/fiduciary-policies/copyright-policy</a></p> <p>Read – <i>The Power of Stories</i>, Introduction and chapters 1-4</p> <p>Optional Resource – Storytelling from Real Life with Phil Porter through InterPlay and Body Wisdom, Inc. (The best resource I’ve found for learning how to tell stories in worship effectively)</p> <p><a href="https://www.interplay.org/index.cfm/go/events:event/happening_id/2800/returnEvent/byLocation/">https://www.interplay.org/index.cfm/go/events:event/happening_id/2800/returnEvent/byLocation/</a></p>
<p><b>Week 9</b> <b>April 1-7</b></p>	<p><b>Focus on multigenerational worship</b></p> <p>Preparation:</p> <p>Read – Ten Good Ideas about Multigenerational Worship (and explore the additional resources at the end of the article)</p> <p><a href="https://philontheprairie.wordpress.com/2008/10/02/ten-good-ideas-about-multigenerational-worship/">https://philontheprairie.wordpress.com/2008/10/02/ten-good-ideas-about-multigenerational-worship/</a></p> <p>Read – Creating Effective Intergenerational Worship Services by Greg Ward</p> <p><a href="http://www.uuintergenerational.org">http://www.uuintergenerational.org</a></p> <p>Read – Com-passion: A Theological Foundation for Intergenerational Worship by John Tolley <a href="http://immigrationjustice.blogs.uua.org/worship/“com-passion”-a-theological-foundation-for-intergenerational-worship/">http://immigrationjustice.blogs.uua.org/worship/“com-passion”-a-theological-foundation-for-intergenerational-worship/</a></p> <p>Read – How is Multigenerational Ministry Happening?</p> <p><a href="https://www.uua.org/multigenerational/how">https://www.uua.org/multigenerational/how</a> and explore the links to the three congregational examples.</p> <p>Read - <i>The Power of Stories</i>, Introduction and chapters 5 – Appendix E</p> <p>Optional Reading – Brooks, Becky and Erika Hewitt, <i>Story, Song, and Spirit</i></p>
<p><b>Week 10</b> <b>April 8-14</b></p>	<p><b>Weddings</b></p> <p>Due: Create a detailed outline for a multigenerational worship service on a topic of your choice. Specify the “setting,” i.e. congregational size, location, composition, time of year, etc.</p> <p>Preparation:</p> <p>Read – Searle, Edward, <i>In Memoriam: A Guide to Modern Funeral and Memorial Services</i> (2nd Edition), if available at DTL2.</p> <p>Read – CLF Handbook of Religious Services pages 23-52</p> <p>Research – What elements of a wedding are required to make a wedding legal in your state? What is the process around the wedding license? What record keeping is a minister or officiant legally required to retain in your state? Bring your answers to class with you.</p>
<p><b>Week 11</b> <b>April 15-21</b></p>	<p><b>Memorial Services and Funerals</b></p> <p>Due: Write a wedding ceremony for any couple or family of your choosing. Include all readings.</p> <p>Preparation:</p> <p>Read – Search UUA’s Worship Web for the three terms above and familiarize yourself with the available resources <a href="https://www.uua.org/worship">https://www.uua.org/worship</a></p> <p>Read – Read the three worship services available on Populi</p>

	Envision – a scenario for a challenging or difficult memorial service or funeral. Begin to gather materials for such a situation.
<b>Week 12</b> <b>April 22-28</b>	<b>Child dedications, coming of age, and bridging</b> Due: Write a memorial service for a beloved elder. Include all readings. Preparation: Read – Search UUA’s Worship Web for the three terms above and familiarize yourself with the available resources <a href="https://www.uua.org/worship">https://www.uua.org/worship</a> Read – Read or view the three worship services posted on Populi
<b>Week 13</b> <b>April 29-May 5</b>	<b>Holidays, holy days, and other rituals</b> Due: Reflection Paper, 3 - 5 pages double spaced Identify a ritual or holiday or holy day celebration that you found transformative. Describe the experience and the elements of the ritual or celebration. Reflect on what made it transformative. In what ways did the ritual or celebration reflect aspects of your understanding of key elements and characteristics of liturgy and worship in multireligious, counter-oppressive, liberatory communities or congregations
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Last Day of Spring 2024 Courses</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>End of Semester – last day to turn in portfolio</b> <b>Final Portfolio consists of</b> 1) Revised and updated document identifying key elements and characteristics of liturgy and worship in multireligious, counter-oppressive, liberatory communities or congregations. This final draft should expand beyond the initial 3-5 key elements or characteristics and the description/explanation of each that you developed in your initial draft. Ideally the form would be a statement that could be part of your ministerial search packet/website but other forms can be negotiated with the professor. 2) Three elements of a worship service selected from this list: invocation, welcome, chalice lighting, prayer, meditation, introduction to an anthem/major music piece. 3) A detailed outline for a multigenerational worship service on a topic of your choice. Specify the “setting,” i.e. congregational size, location, composition, time of year, etc. 4) A fully written out wedding ceremony for any couple or family of your choosing OR a memorial service for any individual. Include all readings. 5) A ritual or celebration of a holiday or holy day fully written out. Specify the “setting,” i.e. congregational size, location, composition, time of year, etc.