


Sample pages from Exploring Worship in the UCA



Looking for UCA resources?


The UCA Assembly has information, documents and links relating to worship and preaching.

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VTWP001 Exploring Worship in the UCA

🔔 Announcements

Welcome



As you begin ...


Course Outline

This section contains important information. Please read it before you begin the course.


Files: 2
Progress: 1 / 1

Key Resources Used in this Course

PROVIDED BY:



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



equipping Leadership for Mission

ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF

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ADMINISTRATION

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Unit W1: Exploring Worship 1

1. Thinking about my experiences of worship

Reflection

Reflect on a recent corporate worship experience that had significant meaning for you.


What was of particular significance?

How were your **thoughts** (cognitive), **emotions** (affective) and **physical** (kinesthetic) dimensions engaged?

The Bible speaks of 'heart, mind, soul and strength' as components of how we might engage with God. (Luke 10:27 see also Deuteronomy 6:5)


Take time to reflect on the above responses and complete the sentence:

Worship is.....



Unit W2: Exploring Worship 2

1. Narrative and Worship



Have you ever sat around a campfire at night and joined with others in telling a story? Storytelling can be a wonderful way of bringing a group together.

Have you tried, though, telling a story where each person tells a sentence as you go around the group, and the story somehow is built this way? It can be a very funny experience! But sometimes, the final story is not very coherent, and a general theme or plot can be lacking! (If you have never tried it, try it with some friends sometime ☺).

When we tell someone a story, it helps if there is a coherence to the story, a theme or plot that others can follow, characters that can be easily identified. Good stories have a 'flow' to them from beginning to end that captures the audience into the spirit of the story.

Worship too can be 'identified' as a narrative. And telling the story of the Scriptures within Worship is a big part of this.

“Telling the story of the Scriptures will be a dominant approach to proclaiming the gospel in a postmodern context. To modern ears the term *story* tends to denote falsehood or myth. However, for the postmodern person story is reality, life-proven lessons, history and legacy, and something of true meaning. Or better, story is no different from the “facts” of the modern person. If science says one thing, it is acceptable for religion to say another. Paradox, in a postmodern context, is celebrated.

Using UiW2 resources

Reading

In [UiW2](#), read through the rest of the Preface, noting the following:

- links to the Assembly website
- how to recognise sections of a worship service essential for a full diet of worship
- what is meant by 'registers' of language - and therefore what high, medium and low registers of language would look and sound like
- how the triune God is addressed, including traditional and feminine ways

"Ordered Liberty in Worship":

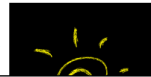
Learning Activity

Read "[Ordered Liberty in Worship](#)" from the Assembly website (you will find a short form in UiW2). [Note this webpage - [Guidelines for Worship](#) - contains a number of useful and pertinent documents that you will find it helpful to go back to.]

What does this document say about flexibility and imagination in worship?

What point does it raise about the legal requirements for some services?

Note the discussion raised about the freedom and essentials for worship. This discussion is also raised in the notes on the Service of the Lord's Day 1 & 2 in UiW2.



Unit W5: Preparing and Leading Worship



4. Ethics in worship leadership

In the following chapters, the term "worship leader" is recognised to mean different roles in different churches. In some churches, it means those who lead the worshipping community through a designated time of worship and praise singing at some given point in the service (often at the beginning). In other churches, it means someone or a group of people who lead the worshipping community through the entire service (often minus the preaching and Eucharist). In other churches, it can mean a role somewhere between these two groups. Whatever this role may be, the following guidelines, cautions, and tips for ethics, dealing appropriately with emotion, and communicating effectively would apply.

In all cases, the aim of the worship leader is to direct people's focus towards God - not towards themselves.

Guidance on behaviour of those who lead worship:



Whilst not all who study these Units on Exploring Worship are preparing for accreditation as Lay Preachers, the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia has provided valuable guidance for those who experience a call from God and the church to lead worship.

The responsibilities involved in preaching and worship leadership call for the highest ethical behaviour by those involved. They parallel similar ethical requirements for ordained Ministers of the Word.

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ADMINISTRATION



Unit W6: Leading Worship 2



2. Inclusion in Worship

Worship as Inclusion

A number of ideas and principles that inform this chapter, are taken from a position paper, "[Inclusive Language in Theology and Liturgy](#)" prepared by Rev Dr Dorothy Lee for the Assembly Doctrine Working Group in 2000. Her ideas are gratefully acknowledged.