Covenantal Renewal Liturgy

How Our Liturgy Shapes Us

All Saints Church Distinctives

Recommended Resources

- ***"The Lord's Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Service." Jeffrey J. Meyers.***
- "Theology of Worship: Why We Worship As We Do." Graham Dennis. wordmp3.com.
- "The Bondage of the Will." Martin Luther.
- "A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship." Michael Horton.
- "Worship: Reformed according to Scripture." Hughes Oliphant Old
- "With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship." D.G. Hart and John R. Muether.
- Worship: The Ultimate Priority." John MacArthur.
- "Treaty of the Great King: The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy." Meredith G. Kline
- **** "Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation (Cultural Liturgies)." James K.A. Smith. Baker Academic, 2009. ****

Why Do We Worship?

- Evangelism
  - “Seeker Driven”
  - To reach the unchurched
  - Results driven
- Education
  - Sermon driven
  - Songs, music, etc. – “pregame ceremonies”
- Experience
  - “Experience” the love of God
  - Sentimental
- Praise and Exultation
  - We go to praise and not to get

Why Do We Worship?

- Covenantal Renewal Worship
  - “During corporate ‘worship’ the Lord renews His covenant with His people when He gathers them together and serves them.” - Jeff Meyers
  - Centered on the covenant
  - What is the purpose, or end goal, of God’s covenant?

A Feast – God invites us to a meal

- “We come to church on Sunday to eat with Jesus and one another, to feast in His presence.” Jeff Meyers.

A Covenant Shaped Liturgy

- The Order and Structure of God's Covenants
  - God [Yahweh] takes hold to do something new – Abram is taken hold (Gen 12:1)
  - God separates – God separates Abram from his land (Gen 12)
  - God speaks – God speaks to Abraham, declaring His promises, Abraham listens and responds in faith (Gen 12, 15, 17)
  - God provides tangible Signs and Seals – Circumcision (Gen 17)
  - God arranges for the perpetuation of His covenant – God promises an heir (Gen 18)

A Sacrificial Shaped Liturgy

- **16** And the priest shall bring them before the LORD and offer his sin offering and his burnt offering, **17** and he shall offer the ram as a sacrifice of peace offering to the LORD, with the basket of unleavened bread. The priest shall offer also its grain offering and its drink offering. - Numbers 6:16-17
- "When more than one kind of offering was presented (as in Num. 6:16-17), the procedure was usually as follows: (1) sin offering or guilt offering, (2) burnt offering, (3) fellowship offering and grain offering (along with a drink offering). The sequence furnishes part of the spiritual significance of the sacrificial system. *First, sin had to be dealt with (sin offering or guilt offering). Second, the worship committed himself completely to God (burnt offering and grain offering). Third, fellowship or communion between the Lord, the priest and the worshiper (fellowship offering) was established*. – NIV Study Bible

The Shape of Worship

- From Outside to Inside; Below to Above
  - The [animal] sacrifice is the pathway the human worshiper takes

- Sin offering – separate sin
- Burnt offering (Ascension) – ascends, consecrated to the Lord
- Fellowship offerings – communing with the Lord

The Shape of Worship

- The Entrance – “take hold”
- Sin offering – “separate”
- Burnt offering (Ascension) – “speak”
- Fellowship offerings – “Signs and Seals”
- Benediction and Exit – “perpetuation”

- Call
- Confession
- Consecration
- Communion
- Commission and Benediction

The Shape of Worship

- But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry (λειτουργίας; *leitourgia)* that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. – Hebrews 8:6

- The Old Testament patterns still shapes the pattern of Worship

Call to Worship & Processional

- Who calls who?
  - *Holy Spirit, You are welcome here*
    Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
    Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
    To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
    - Elevation Music
  - We call – God responds?
- God calls
  - Covenantal
  - God called… Adam, Abraham, Moses, David
  - God calls us out of the world to come and enter into His presence
  - God takes hold – we enter in

Call to Worship & Processional

- We respond to God's word
  - Reading the Psalm
- God calls us into His presence
  - "Arise now and ascend to the heavenly city…"
- Processional
  - As a people, we respond to the call and sing

Confession: Sin Offering & Absolution

- We have been called into the presence of a Holy God….
  - Sin must dealt with
  - Sin offering – separate (from our sin)
- Confession
  - Corporate confession of sin
  - Silent, individual confession of sin
  - Kneeling – posture of the body, posture of the heart
- Absolution
  - Through sacrifice
  - The “once and for all” sacrifice of Christ
  - “your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit…”
- Ascension Hymn
  - We are forgiven
  - We arise in victory over sin
  - Sing a song of praise
  - “Arise, lift up your heads and believe the good news! God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us!”

Consecration: Scripture and Teaching

- “Please be seated to *hear* and *heed* God’s word.”
- God speaks
  - Scripture Reading
  - Psalm Singing
  - Sermon
- We confess
  - Creed
  - We believe…
- We respond
  - Prayers of the people
  - Tithes and offerings

Consecration: Scripture and Teaching

- "Whole burnt offering"
  - Ascension offering
  - Cut up and separated
- Set apart
- The Words of the Law (God Speaks)
- The whole person devoted to the work of the Lord (Consecrate)
- The sermon
  - We hear from God
  - The Word helps us understand the "Sign"
  - It's not the end…

Communion: The Peace Offering & Eucharist

- “Lift up your hearts…”
- We now commune in God’s presence
  - With God – the body and the blood
  - With the congregation – the sign of peace
- Sanctus
  - Holy, Holy, Holy
  - Revelation 4
  - “Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name…”

Communion: The Peace Offering & Eucharist

- The Sign of Peace
  - Fellowship
  - Communion
  - Forgiveness
- Communion
  - Peace Offering – Sign and Seal
  - Eating the Meal
  - The Feast – why we have been invited
- Word and Sacrament
  - We receive the Word (Consecration) – God speaks about His redemption
  - We receive the Sign – we participate in His redemption

Commission and Benediction

- “Stand with us…”
  - Ready to depart
  - Feet that are ready to bring the good news
  - Go and serve
- The Lord bless you…
  - Go with God
  - “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  - “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” – 1 Peter 2:9
- “Go and serve the risen and reigning Lord Jesus Christ”

Some Things You May Also Notice…

- Trinity
  - Covenantal Renewal is Trinitarian
    - "… in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit…"
      - Call – arise now…
      - Confession – your sins are forgiven…
      - Consecration - Creed, *Gloria Patri*
      - Communion – Holy, Holy, Holy
      - Commission – the blessing of the Father through the Son
- Holistic
  - Stand, sit, kneel
  - Raise hands
  - Hear, speak, sing
  - Smell, taste
  - Shake hands

Some Things You May Also Notice…

- It's always the same…!
  - Shouldn't we keep it fresh?
  - Biblical pattern
  - Liturgy shapes – why do it a different way?
  - We participate in the gospel story each week
- Historical
  - Join with the Saints of the past
    - Creed
    - *Sursum Corda* – 3rd century
    - Historical pattern of early church

Some Things You May Also Notice…

- Church calendar
  - Framing the church year around the Redemptive story of Christ
  - Not commanded – but not prohibited
  - It's the shape of the year – utilizing the church historical
  - Lectionary reading – teaching the Scripture
  - Advent – God's gift of His Son to save us from sin and exile
  - Epiphany – The presentation of Jesus to the Gentiles (Wise men)
  - Lent (Ash Wednesday – Easter) – focus on sin and the suffering of Christ
  - Easter – Celebration of the Risen Christ
  - Pentecost – Celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit
  - Ordinary Time
- Robes
  - The pastors do wear robes
  - Identifies the pastor as the representative and spokesperson of Jesus
  - Emphasizes the role – not the man
  - The clothing indicates the calling

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