

“Challenges to Worship in a Post-Election Church” Gospel Values in a Time of Crisis

A Conference for Clergy, Musicians, and Laypersons

Tuesday October 3, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Presented by -

The Association for Reformed & Liturgical Worship



**Daniel J. Theron Assembly Room
Princeton Theological Seminary Library
25 Library Place
Princeton, NJ 08540**

**Rev. Drs. Gregg A. Mast and Fred R. Anderson
Co-Conveners**



The Association for Reformed & Liturgical Worship, a voluntary association of congregations and individuals, covenants with God's help, to cultivate, practice, and promote worship that offers a foretaste of the fullness of God's Reign. This worship is Trinitarian, ecumenical, incarnational and sacramental; it is both universal and local and sends the church to live its liturgy, bringing God's justice and grace to all of God's creation.

Questions?

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

This one day event is intentionally designed to draw upon the experience, knowledge, and vision of its participants who, as leaders, are the real authorities in our worshipping congregations. Though there will initially be brief plenary presentations by various conference participants, the real work for the day is designed to take place in cohorts of pastors, musicians, laypersons, and other liturgical leaders and planners, working together to shape worship in their various ecclesial communities.

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| 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:30 a.m. | Morning Prayers |
| 9:50 a.m. | Welcome and Greetings
Dr. M. Craig Barnes, President, Princeton Theological Seminary |
| 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Plenary Presentations
Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary
Rev. Dr. Heidi Neumark, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. David Davis, Nassau Presbyterian Church
Mr. Noel Werner, Nassau Presbyterian Church |
| 11:00 - 11:15 a.m. | Break |
| 11:15 - 12:30 p.m. | Plenary Cohort Conversation Breakouts |
| 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. | Buffet Lunch |
| 1:15 - 2:00 p.m. | Cohorts Report Out |
| 2:00 - 2:15 p.m. | Break |
| 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. | Introduction to AR&LW |
| 2:30 - 3:40 p.m. | Plenary Conversations – Conference Participants
Gospel Values in a Time of Crisis
Shaping Worship for Faithful Living |
| 3:40 - 4:00 p.m. | Closing Prayer and Farewells |

PRESENTERS



Rev. Dr. Gregg A. Mast, Ph.D. is President Of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He has served as a pastor in Johannesburg, South Africa; Irvington, New Jersey; and Albany, New York. He has also served as Minister of Social Witness and Worship and as Director of Ministry Services for the Reformed Church in America at different times in his career. He is the author of several books, including *The Eucharistic Service of the Catholic Apostolic Church and Its Influence on Reformed Liturgical Renewals of the Nineteenth Century* (1998), *In Remembrance and Hope* (1998), and *Raising the Dead* (2001). He has published numerous articles in popular and scholarly journals and contributed for several years a monthly column to the *Church Herald*.



Rev. Dr. Fred Anderson, D. Min. is Pastor Emeritus of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, where he retired in May of 2015 after 42 years of pastoral ministry in the PCUSA. An author of hymn texts and psalm paraphrases, his work appears in numerous Protestant and Roman Catholic hymnals in North America, Australia, and even Asia. His metrical psalms and pastoral reflection on them were recently published by Eerdmans Press in a single volume entitled *Singing God's Psalms*. A pastoral theologian with special interest in the theology of preaching, worship and sacraments, he is currently at work on a book tentatively entitled *What Does Jesus Death Have to Do with Me?—A New Model of Atonement*. Fred recently retired from the Princeton Seminary Board of Trustees after 25 year of service, but continues as Chair of the Board of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton



Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary, Ph.D. is the newly appointed President of the Reformed Church of American's New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan, a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology Virginia Union University, and a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. degree in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he was Associate Professor of Psychology for 21 years before resigning in 2014 to devote himself more fully to pastoral and clinical work. Dr. McCreary, a licensed clinical psychologist as well as pastor, has had a distinguished career as spiritual leader, teacher, therapist, senior university administrator, business owner, tenured professor, and community advocate. With his wife he co-pastored the Spring Creek Baptist Church in Moseley, Virginia for 16 years.



Rev. Dr. Heidi Neumark, Ph.D. is an author, speaker and Lutheran pastor who has served congregations in the South Bronx and is presently Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan, an ELCA Reconciling in Christ Congregation that is bi-lingual. Her experiences in congregational and community organizing in the Bronx led to a highly acclaimed book *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx* (Beacon Press). In her present position, Pastor Neumark also serves as the executive director of a shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth. Her latest book, *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets Memory and Faith* (Abingdon Press) is about her discovery of Jewish roots and successive family loss and trauma through the Shoah. Heidi's undergraduate studies were at Brown University. She received her Masters in Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and spent a year at an ecumenical seminary in Argentina where she also worked with Servicio Paz y Justicia, a human rights organization. She was an honorary doctorate of divinity from Muhlenberg College.



Rev. Dr. David A. Davis, Ph.D., the senior pastor of the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, has served the congregation since 2000. David earned his Ph.D. in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he continues to teach as a visiting lecturer. His academic work has focused on preaching as a corporate act and the active role of the listener in the preaching event. Before arriving in Princeton, David served for 14 years as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Blackwood, New Jersey. He has published two sermon collections, *A Kingdom You Can Taste* and *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*. David grew up in Pittsburgh and did his undergraduate work at Harvard University where he was a member of the University Choir, singing weekly in Memorial Church and listening to the preaching of Professor Peter Gomes.



Mr. Noel Werner, MM, MTS has been Director of Music at Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ since 2006. Prior to this position, he was the Minister of Music at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, New Jersey, for eleven years. Noel holds a Bachelor's Degree in Church Music from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, a Masters Degree in Organ Performance from Indiana University, and a Masters Degree in Theological Studies from Christian Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis. He has lectured at Westminster Choir College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Presbyteries of Elizabeth and New Brunswick.

Challenges to Worship in a Post-Election Church:

Liturgy for a Time of Apocalypse

A document of the Steering Committee of the
Association for Reformed & Liturgical Worship

8 March 2017

The current moment in America is apocalyptic.

Multiple New Testament images of the apocalypse address security concerns¹: “This generation” (Matt. 24:34) trusts aspects of this world that seem permanent and secure: The Cosmos, The Temple, The Empire. Jesus proclaimed all three to be illusions. There is no one or thing to trust but God. Heavenly bodies disintegrate, religious institutions crumble, empires fall. Only in God are we secure.

The New Testament’s apocalyptic triad reveals unsettling parallels in our time.

- The Cosmos: The survival of “the earth and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1) is at risk; climate change threatens the very existence of human life on planet Earth.
- The Temple: As the church and other religious organizations experience institutional decline, values long held as true and an order of creation deemed lasting are called into question.
- The Empire: Defiantly boasts of self-centeredness, imperiously dismisses the rest of the world’s needs, and futilely strives for superiority in the name of greatness.

For many in America:

“... Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, ...”²

In such times, the worship of the church can name and nurture.

Prophecy. Among both our citizenry and our political leadership, moral failures of bigotry and vanity are enacted. Therefore, falsehoods and idols need to be named and challenged; hatred and greed need to be admonished. Affirming the primacy of the Word of God (The Barmen Declaration³), the moment cries out for a wailing and courageous lamentation, for surely this is a time to prophesy.

Care. Both in the public square and in communities of faith, the prophetic and the pastoral stand in tension. The prophet’s call for justice does not address the fear and pain that drive us to trust in idols and evils. Out of fear that God will not provide, we turn on one another. Out of the anxiety that we are “not a people” (1 Peter 2:10), we seek identity in race and nation. Unsure of the blessed ties that bind our hearts in Christian love, we hesitate to speak our minds. Having lost trust in the promises of God, we look to “make America great again.” This moment calls for humility, understanding, and love in confession, preaching, and prayers that America may be made kind again.

Song. Voicing the glory of God--well-being for the neighbor, care for the poor, welcome to the alien and refugee, acceptance of the outcast, and the laments of the heart--the psalmist leads us on the path to God’s reign.

Celebration. Sacramental worship draws us into the salvation, world, and security of God. In Baptism we find our identity – as children of God, disciples of Jesus, and members of Christ’s church. In the Eucharist we encounter God, abundant in life and welcoming in grace. In Christ, we become what we eat: his body, the community of faith. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we know the peace of Christ and offer it to others, whomever they may be.

God has blessed America, giving us strength to suffer and to serve—it is time for us to do so! May America bless God.

PARTICIPATION PREPARATION

Those planning to attend the program are encouraged to view the two TED Talks

¹ Mark 13, Matthew 24 and 25, Luke 21, 2 Thessalonians 2, and The Revelation to John

² William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), “The Second Coming.”

³ See <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/barmen.htm>

“The moral roots of liberals and conservatives” 18:42 minutes
https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind

“Can a divided America heal?” 20:17 minutes
https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_can_a_divided_america_heal

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LODGING

Those coming from a distance needing overnight lodging for Monday or Tuesday are directed to the Princeton Seminary Erdman Center, <http://coned.ptsem.edu/meetings-lodging/lodging-rooms/> (609.497.7990), where housing may be arranged at a modest fee. If making an on-line reservation, in the “Accommodation” box select “Any Room” to view a list of available rooms and related fees.