

ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting gods narrative robert e webber

****Ancient Future Worship Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative: Insights from Robert E. Webber****

ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting gods narrative robert e webber is a phrase that captures the essence of a transformative approach to Christian worship and spirituality. Rooted deeply in the tradition of the early church yet dynamically oriented towards the present and future, this concept emphasizes the powerful role worship plays in both proclaiming God's story and inviting the faithful to live out that narrative in their daily lives. Robert E. Webber, a prominent theologian and liturgist, was instrumental in articulating this vision, blending ancient Christian practices with contemporary expressions of faith to foster a rich and meaningful worship experience.

In this article, we'll explore what ancient future worship means, how it proclaims and enacts God's narrative, and why Robert E. Webber's work remains influential for churches and believers seeking a worship renewal that is both timeless and timely.

Understanding Ancient Future Worship

At its core, ancient future worship is a concept that seeks to reconnect modern Christian worship with the rich traditions of the early church while embracing the current context and looking forward to what God is doing in the future. The phrase "ancient future" may sound paradoxical, but it beautifully conveys a cyclical and living faith experience. It honors the past, lives in the present, and anticipates the future.

Robert E. Webber's pioneering work in this area highlights how worship is not just a moment or event but a participation in the grand story of God. This story begins with creation, unfolds through the history of Israel, reaches fulfillment in Jesus Christ, and culminates in the hope of the new creation. Worship, then, is a way of proclaiming this narrative and inviting the worshiper into God's ongoing work in the world.

The Role of Tradition in Ancient Future Worship

One of the hallmarks of ancient future worship is its deep respect for Christian tradition. Webber argued that many modern churches have lost touch with the richness of ancient liturgical practices, which provide stability, depth, and connection with the wider Christian family across time and space. By reintroducing elements like the lectionary, creeds, sacraments, and liturgical seasons, worship becomes a conduit for the timeless truths of the faith.

This re-engagement with tradition does not mean worship becomes rigid or irrelevant. Instead, it allows worship to be deeply rooted in the gospel while creatively adapting to contemporary culture. This balance is crucial for churches that want to avoid the extremes of either abandoning tradition altogether or being stuck in outdated forms.

Proclaiming God's Narrative Through Worship

Worship is inherently a form of storytelling. It shapes how communities understand who God is and how they relate to Him. Ancient future worship, as emphasized by Robert E. Webber, makes a deliberate effort to proclaim God's narrative—the biblical storyline that reveals God's redemptive work from Genesis to Revelation.

Scripture and Storytelling

Central to proclaiming God's narrative is the use of Scripture in worship. Webber championed the restoration of a strong biblical focus, encouraging the use of the lectionary—a structured schedule of Scripture readings that ensures the whole biblical story is told over time. This approach helps worshipers hear and see the unfolding drama of salvation history rather than isolated verses or disconnected teachings.

Reading and preaching God's Word within the worship context invites people to situate their own lives within the divine story. It transforms worship from a passive experience into an active engagement with God's purposes.

The Power of Liturgical Elements

Beyond Scripture, ancient future worship employs symbolic actions, prayers, and sacraments that enact the narrative. For example:

- **Baptism** symbolizes dying to the old self and rising to new life in Christ, reenacting the story of salvation.
- **The Lord's Supper (Eucharist)** recalls Jesus' sacrifice and anticipates

His return, connecting believers to the story's climax.

- ****Confession and assurance of pardon**** reflect the ongoing need for repentance and grace.

These elements do more than communicate theology; they invite worshipers to embody and live out the story of God in tangible, meaningful ways.

Enacting God's Narrative in Daily Life

Ancient future worship is not confined to Sunday gatherings or liturgical ceremonies. Robert E. Webber emphasized that worship flows from and into everyday life. When worship truly proclaims God's narrative, it also inspires believers to enact that story in their relationships, work, and community involvement.

Forming a Worshiping Community

An important insight from Webber is that worship forms identity. As people gather regularly to proclaim and enact God's story, they become a worshiping community—a community shaped by grace, mission, and hope. This communal identity challenges individualism and fosters a shared purpose grounded in the gospel.

Living Out the Story

Living out God's narrative means embodying the values and actions that flow from the gospel, such as justice, mercy, humility, and love. It means seeing everyday moments as opportunities to bear witness to God's kingdom. Worship, therefore, is both a celebration and a commissioning, equipping believers to be agents of transformation in the world.

Robert E. Webber's Legacy in the Modern Church

Robert E. Webber's contributions to worship theology continue to shape contemporary Christian practice. His book **Ancient-Future Faith** and related works have inspired a movement that values continuity with the past while engaging the present culture creatively.

Implications for Worship Leaders and Churches

For worship leaders, Webber's insights offer practical guidance:

- Incorporate historic liturgies and prayers to enrich worship with depth and beauty.
- Use the lectionary to ensure a balanced and comprehensive biblical narrative.
- Emphasize the sacraments as vital acts of participation in God's story.
- Encourage congregations to see worship as both proclamation and enactment, impacting daily life.

Churches that embrace ancient future worship often find that their worship becomes more participatory, theologically rich, and spiritually nourishing.

Challenges and Opportunities

Adopting ancient future worship is not without challenges. It requires education, openness to change, and sometimes a willingness to move beyond familiar styles. However, the opportunity to connect worship deeply with the Christian story and to form disciples who live out that story is profoundly rewarding.

Ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting God's narrative, as articulated by Robert E. Webber, invites believers into a dynamic, living faith experience. It bridges the wisdom of Christian tradition with the realities of contemporary life, offering a worship that is both rooted and relevant. As churches and individuals explore this approach, they discover worship not just as an event but as a way of life—one that continually shapes hearts, communities, and the world in God's redemptive story.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Robert E. Webber and what is his contribution to 'Ancient Future Worship'?

Robert E. Webber was a theologian and author best known for his work on Christian worship. He contributed significantly to 'Ancient Future Worship' by advocating for a return to early church practices combined with contemporary worship, emphasizing the proclamation and enactment of God's narrative.

What is the main concept behind 'Ancient Future Worship' as proposed by Robert E. Webber?

'Ancient Future Worship' is a concept that integrates ancient Christian worship traditions with modern practices. Robert E. Webber emphasized that worship should proclaim and enact God's redemptive story, connecting believers with the historic faith while addressing contemporary spiritual needs.

How does 'Ancient Future Worship' proclaim God's narrative according to Webber?

According to Webber, 'Ancient Future Worship' proclaims God's narrative by retelling the biblical story through liturgy, sacraments, and Scripture readings, allowing worshippers to participate in the unfolding story of God's salvation history.

In what ways does 'Ancient Future Worship' enact God's narrative?

'Ancient Future Worship' enacts God's narrative by engaging believers in liturgical actions such as baptism, communion, prayer, and confession, which are seen as participation in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, thus making the story a living reality.

Why does Robert E. Webber argue for a return to ancient worship practices?

Webber argues that ancient worship practices provide a rich theological and spiritual depth that contemporary worship often lacks. He believes that these practices help maintain continuity with the historic church and ground believers firmly in the biblical story of God's work.

How does 'Ancient Future Worship' balance tradition and innovation?

'Ancient Future Worship' balances tradition and innovation by preserving the core elements of early Christian worship—such as the use of Scripture, sacraments, and creeds—while incorporating modern music, language, and cultural expressions to make worship relevant today.

What role do narratives play in Robert E. Webber's understanding of worship?

Narratives are central in Webber's understanding of worship because they frame worship as a participatory act in God's ongoing story. Worship becomes a means for believers to hear, proclaim, and live out the narrative of

salvation history.

Can 'Ancient Future Worship' be applied in contemporary church settings?

Yes, 'Ancient Future Worship' is designed specifically to be adaptable in contemporary church settings. It encourages churches to draw from the rich heritage of ancient worship while creatively engaging modern congregations in the proclamation and enactment of God's story.

What impact has Robert E. Webber's 'Ancient Future Worship' had on modern Christian worship practices?

Robert E. Webber's 'Ancient Future Worship' has significantly influenced modern Christian worship by inspiring many churches to incorporate liturgical elements, sacraments, and a narrative approach to worship, fostering a deeper connection to the historic faith and a more holistic spiritual experience.

Additional Resources

Ancient Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative in Robert E. Webber's Theology

ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting gods narrative robert e webber represents a profound theological framework that challenges contemporary Christian liturgical practices by reconnecting modern worship with the rich traditions of the early church. Robert E. Webber, a pioneering theologian and worship scholar, articulated this concept to bridge the gap between ancient Christian worship patterns and the future trajectory of the church's spiritual life. His influential work invites believers and church leaders to embrace a form of worship that is both historically grounded and dynamically prophetic, proclaiming and enacting the ongoing narrative of God in the world.

This article explores Robert E. Webber's vision of ancient future worship, delving into its theological foundations, practical implications, and relevance in today's diverse Christian landscape. By investigating the ways Webber integrates the past into future worship expressions, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding that is both analytical and accessible for scholars, pastors, and laypersons interested in liturgical renewal and ecclesial identity.

Understanding Ancient Future Worship: Theological Foundations

Robert E. Webber's concept of ancient future worship is rooted in the conviction that the church's worship life must be anchored in the historic Christian faith while simultaneously addressing the spiritual needs of contemporary believers. This approach does not merely replicate ancient rituals but seeks to embody the timeless narrative of God's redemptive work through worship that is both proclamation and enactment.

Webber emphasized that worship is a narrative event—a story that the church enters into and retells. The "God's narrative" that is proclaimed and enacted in worship refers to the biblical storyline, encompassing creation, fall, redemption, and consummation. By participating in this narrative, worshipers are not passive observers but active participants in God's ongoing mission.

This theological framework challenges the prevalent trend in modern evangelical worship that often prioritizes innovation and consumer preferences over historical continuity. Instead, ancient future worship calls for a balanced integration of Scripture, tradition, and contemporary expression.

The Role of Proclamation and Enactment

A key feature of ancient future worship is its dual focus on proclamation and enactment. Proclaiming God's narrative involves the faithful declaration of biblical truths through Scripture readings, preaching, and liturgical prayers. This proclamation anchors worship in the authoritative word of God.

Enacting God's narrative, however, involves a participatory dimension where worshipers embody the story through ritual actions such as baptism, communion, confession, and praise. These enacted elements are not merely symbolic but serve as tangible encounters with divine grace, reinforcing the narrative's transformative power.

Webber argued that this dynamic interplay between word and sacrament, memory and anticipation, is essential for a worship that is both historically informed and future-oriented. It maintains continuity with the early church's practices while speaking meaningfully to the present age.

Comparative Perspectives: Ancient Future Worship and Contemporary Practices

When compared to contemporary worship trends, ancient future worship presents a distinctive model that prioritizes theological depth and historical rootedness. Many modern worship services, especially within charismatic and seeker-sensitive contexts, emphasize emotional experience, contemporary music styles, and informal structures. While these elements can be valuable, Webber cautioned against losing the narrative and communal aspects that ancient

worship preserved.

In contrast, ancient future worship draws heavily on the liturgical calendar, creeds, and classical hymns, fostering a rhythm that connects believers across generations. This approach often incorporates elements from early Christian worship such as the use of the Lord's Prayer, the Nicene Creed, and the Eucharist in ways that testify to the unity of the church's story throughout time.

Moreover, ancient future worship is ecumenical in spirit, recognizing the value in diverse Christian traditions. It encourages openness to the richness of Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant liturgical practices, thereby enriching the worship experience beyond denominational boundaries.

Pros and Cons of Ancient Future Worship in Modern Contexts

- **Pros:**

- Deepens theological understanding and spiritual formation.
- Fosters a sense of historical continuity and identity.
- Balances Scripture and sacrament, word and action.
- Encourages ecumenical dialogue and unity.
- Provides a meaningful framework for worship that transcends trends.

- **Cons:**

- May appear too formal or traditional for some contemporary congregations.
- Requires education and catechesis to avoid mere ritualism.
- Potential resistance from communities accustomed to informal worship styles.
- Implementation can be challenging in culturally diverse settings.

Practical Applications: Implementing Ancient Future Worship

Implementing Robert E. Webber's ancient future worship model requires intentionality and a commitment to liturgical education. Churches seeking to embody this approach often begin by revisiting their worship service structures, incorporating elements such as responsive readings, historic creeds, and sacramental observances.

Music selection plays a vital role, blending ancient hymns and chants with contemporary compositions that reflect biblical narratives and theological themes. This musical integration helps connect worshipers emotionally and intellectually to the story of God.

Additionally, preaching within ancient future worship is narrative-driven, focusing on unfolding the biblical story in ways that invite participation and transformation. Sermons often emphasize the church's role as a community living within God's redemptive history.

Church leaders may also explore the use of liturgical seasons—Advent, Lent, Pentecost—to create a worship rhythm that mirrors the biblical timeline and deepens congregational engagement with God's unfolding story.

Community and Identity through Ancient Future Worship

One of the most compelling aspects of ancient future worship is its capacity to build a strong sense of community and identity. By participating in a worship narrative that transcends time, congregants experience belonging to the "great cloud of witnesses" that includes the early church and future generations.

This collective memory fosters spiritual resilience and a shared mission, reminding believers that their worship is connected to a larger divine purpose. It also challenges individualistic or consumer-driven approaches, emphasizing worship as communal participation in God's story.

In this way, ancient future worship functions as a theological and liturgical bridge—uniting past, present, and future in a cohesive and meaningful way.

Robert E. Webber's Legacy and Influence

Robert E. Webber's scholarship has had a lasting impact on liturgical renewal movements across denominational lines. His advocacy for ancient future worship has inspired numerous pastors, theologians, and worship leaders to

rethink the nature and purpose of Christian worship.

His writings, including seminal works like **Ancient-Future Faith** and **Ancient-Future Worship**, have become foundational texts in seminaries and churches dedicated to restoring the richness of Christian tradition amidst modern challenges.

Webber's approach continues to resonate as churches navigate the complexities of cultural change, seeking worship expressions that are both authentic and relevant. His vision offers a pathway to reclaim the narrative power of worship, ensuring that the proclamation and enactment of God's story remain central to Christian life.

In summary, ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting God's narrative, as articulated by Robert E. Webber, is a transformative model that invites the church into a vibrant dialogue between history and hope. It challenges contemporary worship trends by anchoring spiritual practice in the enduring story of redemption, calling believers to participate meaningfully in the ongoing mission of God.

Ancient Future Worship Proclaiming And Enacting Gods Narrative Robert E Webber

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Ancient-Future Worship (Ancient-Future) Robert E. Webber, 2008-04-01 With the many models of worship available, choosing a style to worship God can be a bit overwhelming. Is it better to go with traditional or contemporary models? Christians may find themselves asking how early believers worshiped and whether they can provide insight into how we should praise God today. Rooted in historical models and patristic church studies, *Ancient-Future Worship* examines how early Christian worship models can be applied to the postmodern church. Pastors and church leaders, as well as younger evangelical and emerging church groups, will find this last book in the respected *Ancient-Future* series an invaluable resource for authentic worship.

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Ancient-Future Worship Robert E. Webber, 2008-01-01 Rooted in historical models and patristic church studies, *Ancient-Future Worship* examines how early Christian worship models can be applied to the postmodern church.

ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting gods narrative robert e webber: The Serious Business of Worship Melanie Ross, Simon Jones, 2011-11-03 The study of liturgy has received criticism from scholars and practitioners alike: the academic discipline of liturgiology has been compared to the hobby of stamp collection, and proponents for liturgical renewal argue that worship must be made more accessible and relevant. Bryan Spinks has been an important moderating voice in this discussion, reminding both academic and ecclesial communities that Christ is made known in the liturgical riches of the past as well as in contemporary forms of the present. Inspired by Spinks' work, this volume brings together biblical, historical, and theological scholars to discuss the theme of continuity and change in worship. Its historical range begins with the early church, extends through the Reformation, and concludes with a discussion of issues facing contemporary liturgical reform. In recognition of the fact that Professor Spinks' work has been widely influential in both Europe and the United States, the editors have solicited liturgical

perspectives from scholars with international reputations on sides of the Atlantic.

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Worship Quest, Second Edition Steven D. Brooks, 2025-08-07 The second edition of *Worship Quest: An Exploration of Worship Leadership* guides readers on a journey through the importance of understanding worship and its leadership. With fresh insights and expanded content, Steven D. Brooks equips worship leadership and congregations with the theological depth and practical wisdom needed to engage in thoughtful, God-centered worship. This updated edition deepens the exploration of worship as a holistic, formative experience—one that engages the entire church in a journey of spiritual growth. It also clarifies the crucial distinction between congregational worship and concert-style performances, emphasizing that worship is not about entertainment but about leading God's people toward a sincere, heartfelt response. Readers will gain a renewed understanding of the roles of worship leadership—not just as musicians, but as theologians, pastors, and guides who cultivate a space for meaningful, participatory worship. Readers who embark on *Worship Quest* will discover the profound impact of faithful worship leadership.

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Story-Shaped Worship Robbie F. Castleman, 2013-03-06 In *Story-Shaped Worship* Robbie Castleman attempts nothing less than to uncover the fundamental shape of worship. Right worship doesn't require a traditionalist return to earlier forms of church, she argues, but a fresh response to God in light of the revealed patterns of worship we find in the Bible and church history.

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Cultivating an Evangelistic Character Christopher James Schoon, 2018-04-24 This project explores the relationship between worship, discipleship, and evangelism within the missional church movement. Engaging contributions from liturgical theology, Christian ethics, and post-Christendom evangelism, the book proposes a missional approach to worship that, when integrated with a praxis-oriented discipleship, cultivates Jesus' character among God's people. Along the way, the project attends to the Holy Spirit's transformative presence, the liturgical rhythms of remembering and anticipating, and the practices of hospitality and compassion. In the end, *Cultivating an Evangelistic Character* contends that the Spirit works through the integration of worship and discipleship to form God's people. In other words, God's people become evangelistic, or as Newbigin said, "the hermeneutic of the gospel."

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Thomas F. Torrance and the Church Fathers Jason Robert Radcliff, 2015-04-30 In this volume, Jason Radcliff examines T. F. Torrance's reading of the church fathers. Radcliff explores how Torrance reconstructs the patristic tradition, producing a Reformed, evangelical, and ecumenical version of the *Consensus Patrum* (Consensus of the Fathers). This book investigates how Torrance uniquely understands the Fathers and the Reformers to be mutually informing and how, as such, his approach involves significant changes to both standard readings of the Fathers and Torrance's own Reformed evangelical tradition. Torrance's approach is distinctive in its Christocentric rootedness in the primary theme of the Nicene homoousion (of one essence [with the Father]) and its champion Athanasius of Alexandria. The book explores Torrance's inherently broad ecclesiology and constructive achievements, both of which contribute to his ongoing ecumenical relevance.

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Worship Formation Steven D. Brooks, 2020-02-17 *Worship Formation* provides a thoughtful perspective on Christian worship and addresses how each element within a worship service spiritually forms the worshiper. Brooks challenges the reader toward an understanding that worshiping through music, prayer, Scripture reading, Communion, sermon, stillness, giving, and baptism engages the worshiper in spiritual formation. *Worship Formation* encourages the worshiper to not just go through the motions when they gather for worship, but to realize that they are being formed through each element of worship, and challenges those in leadership to be thoughtful in their approach to planning and leading worship services.

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Christ-Centered Worship Bryan Chapell, 2009-10 The bestselling author of Christ-Centered Preaching provides a useful and accessible resource that traces the history of Christian worship and calls contemporary congregations to gospel faithfulness.

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WORSHIP PRIMER FOR PASTORS AND PLANNERS WHAT YOU WISH YOU LEARNED IN SCHOOL
William D. Kirkwood, 2023-11-10 There has to be more to leading worship than what I've been doing. That nagging thought drove William Kirkwood to develop this primer on worship for all lead pastors and worship planners who have wondered the same thing. Most pastors come out of seminary with little training in worship yet are ultimately responsible for the worship life of their church. Most worship planners/leaders have musical and leadership skills but little theological background in worship. Kirkwood brings his decades of worship leading experience and education from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies into the pages of this timely book. He explores the biblical, historical, theological, and cultural foundations of worship and brings them together with practical guidance on how to create vibrant worship services that facilitate a divine-human interaction. The primer is written for leaders in contemporary free churches, traditional/liturgical churches, and charismatic/Pentecostal churches. Each chapter includes thoughtful exercises and questions to help in your own church context, as well as recommended resources for further study.

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Engraved Upon the Heart Hwarang Moon, 2015-07-17 How does liturgy impact the formation of faith? The Protestant Church has traditionally emphasized human reason and doctrinal knowledge. But there is another method with great formative power--participation in liturgy. Human beings gain important knowledge not only through traditional, cognitively focused learning, but also through practice and participation. And because knowledge is wholistic, an inability to express an idea in language does not necessarily signify an absence of knowledge. This book shows how liturgy transmits knowledge that transcends human reason. We repeat the liturgy in weekly public worship, and its contents are inscribed on our minds and bodies. Contrary to common belief, this is also true for children and cognitively challenged individuals. They may be unable to verbally express the contents of their faith in a way that satisfies normal adult expectations, but these two groups of people are capable of rich religious experiences. This book explores how welcoming them into experience and practice of worship and sacrament can benefit children, cognitively challenged church members, their families, and the church community as a whole, and makes us all a more inclusive community in Christ.

ancient future worship proclaiming and enacting gods narrative robert e webber: *Joshua*
Lissa Wray Beal, 2019-10-22 A new commentary for today's world, The Story of God Bible Commentary explains and illuminates each passage of Scripture in light of the Bible's grand story. The first commentary series to do so, SGBC offers a clear and compelling exposition of biblical texts, guiding everyday readers in how to creatively and faithfully live out the Bible in their own contexts. Its story-centric approach is ideal for pastors, students, Sunday school teachers, and laypeople alike. Each volume employs three main, easy-to-use sections designed to help readers live out God's story: **LISTEN** to the Story: Includes complete NIV text with references to other texts at work in each passage, encouraging the reader to hear it within the Bible's grand story. **EXPLAIN** the Story: Explores and illuminates each text as embedded in its canonical and historical setting. **LIVE** the Story: Reflects on how each text can be lived today and includes contemporary stories and illustrations to aid preachers, teachers, and students. —Joshua— The book of Joshua continues the story of Genesis to Deuteronomy, bringing Israel into the land promised Abraham in Genesis 12. Joshua's emphasis on God's gift of the land, the conduct of warfare and the treatment of Canaan's inhabitants, and the importance of obedience to the law of Moses all arise out of this long narrative. Edited by Scot McKnight and Tremper Longman III, and written by a number of top-notch theologians, The Story of God Bible Commentary series will bring relevant, balanced, and clear-minded theological insight to any biblical education or ministry.

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Glaube und Theologie / Faith and Theology Wolfram Kinzig, Julia Winnebeck, 2019-07-31 Glaube und Theologie stehen seit den Anfängen des Christentums in produktiver Spannung zueinander, die die Reformation mit ihrem Prinzip des sola fide einerseits und mit ihrer Institutionalisierung einer schriftzentrierten akademischen Theologie andererseits in besonderer Weise aktualisiert hat. Dadurch entwickelte sich in den neu entstandenen Evangelisch-theologischen Fakultäten eine wissenschaftliche Theologie auf höchstem Niveau, die weltweit rezipiert wurde. Diese Theologie sieht sich allerdings in jüngster Zeit kritischen Anfragen ausgesetzt. Säkularisierungsprozesse führen zu einem massiven religiösen Bildungsverlust und damit zu einer Trivialisierung von Theologie. Zeitgleich breiten sich weltweit christliche Gruppen aus, die auf eine akademische theologische Ausbildung keinen Wert legen. In Anbetracht dieser Situation entsteht die Frage, inwiefern die Theologie reformatorischer Tradition auch in Zukunft religionsproduktiv sein und eine für die Kirchen grundlegende Arbeit leisten kann. Um diese Frage zu diskutieren, trafen sich auf Einladung des Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultätentages, der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Theologie und der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland im Oktober 2017 Theologinnen und Theologen unterschiedlicher christlicher Konfessionen in Wittenberg zu einer internationalen Konferenz. Deren wegweisende Beiträge sind in diesem Band veröffentlicht. Since the beginnings of Christianity, there has been a fundamental tension between faith and theology. The Reformation, with its principle of sola fide on the one hand and its institutionalisation of a scripture-based academic theology on the other hand, drew particular attention to the tension and suggested new answers to that problem. That effort contributed to a fundamental transformation of academic theology within the faculties of Protestant Theology which emerged as a result of the movement. In the past decades, however, academic theology has come under considerable pressure. [In much of Europe and North America,] The process of secularization has led to a massive decline in religious education and - partially as a reaction to this - to a trivialization of academic theology. At the same time, one can observe a global proliferation of evangelical and Pentecostal groups. These groups sometimes display a certain indifference towards academic theological training, or even reject it altogether. In view of this development the question arises to what extent the relationship between faith and theology as defined in the wake of the Reformation will in future continue to be religiously productive and may thus serve the churches and their congregations.

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Effective Generational Ministry Craig L. Blomberg, Elisabeth A. Nesbit Sbanotto, 2016-01-12 Understanding generational differences is a key to effective ministry in a multigenerational church. This book offers students and practitioners cutting-edge research and biblical analysis of three generations--Boomers, GenXers, and Millennials--so churches can minister more effectively within and across generational lines. The authors, one an expert on generational differences and the other a respected New Testament scholar, represent different generations and areas of expertise. The book explores key characteristics of each generation, provides biblical-theological analysis of generational attributes, and offers specific suggestions for ministry.

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Trinitarian Doxology Kevin J. Navarro, 2023-01-26 Liturgical theology tends towards the anthropocentric, focussing primarily on the behaviour of the worshippers. The theology of Thomas F. and James B. Torrance, however, provides an alternative approach: a Trinitarian and Christocentric study of liturgy, which decentralises the worshippers' position in liturgy and focusses instead on Christ, the One who is worshipped. In *Trinitarian Doxology*, Kevin J. Navarro examines the Torrances' theology, explicating and illuminating their work, whilst simultaneously providing critical analysis which provides a lens for deeper understanding.

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Reverberating Word Michael Denham, 2018-06-12 Like sounds of beautiful music, worship can renew us for God's glory and our good by the invigorating power of God's reverberating Word. It is God's story that redeems all our stories. We want to tell it again and again as best we can, clearly

conveying its message, meaning, richness, claim, and call. Through its every facet and component, worship that is biblically expositional can heighten how we proclaim God's story, faithfully and creatively pointing to the One who alone offers us true identity, security, and destiny. If you seek me you will find me, if you search with all your heart, declares the Lord. With the ancient prophets and apostles we must repeat and repeat and repeat the most wonderful truth that God wants to be found. In Christian worship such tremendous and tender encounter is available to us as nowhere else.

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Recovering the Evangelical Sacrament Anthony R. Cross, 2012-12-06 The subject of baptism continues to be of considerable interest--though it frequently appears within broader studies of sacraments, liturgy, worship, and ecumenical studies, and within confessional bounds: credobaptist or paedobaptist--yet it is rarely discussed by Evangelicals. This book, however, is neither an apologetic for credobaptism nor paedobaptism; rather Cross believes that, as practiced today, both forms are a departure from New Testament baptism, which, he maintains, was an integral part of becoming a Christian and part of the proclaimed gospel. He argues that the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5 is conversion-baptism and that the baptism referred to in the various New Testament strata refers to this one baptism (of Spirit and water). The study sets out the case for this interpretation and contends that in key passages baptism is an example of synecdoche. The case is then made for a sacramental interpretation of baptism from a thoroughgoing Evangelical perspective. Cross concludes with reflections on the necessity of baptismal reform and the relevance of a return to conversion-baptism for the contemporary church in a post-Christian, post-Christendom, mission setting.

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Ancient-Future Visionary Robert E. Webber, 2025-01-28 Are we too comfortable with traditional forms of worship? Are these forms truly historical, or are they man-made distortions of God's prescribed ecclesial order? Do our accepted methods work against the functioning of the local church in its mission to evangelize and disciple, rather than enhance it? Join the late Dr. Robert E. Webber in this compilation of previously published articles and uncollected addresses as he discusses with characteristic humor and candor the diverse aspects of ancient and contemporary worship practices, from the church in its infancy to the advent of the contemporary "megachurch" movement. As in his many books, including *Worship is a Verb* and *Worship: Old & New*, Webber explores the attitudes and liturgies through which we approach a loving God. Webber might infuriate or delight, or both, but he always stimulates.

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Participation and Covenant Dick Moes, 2024-03-13 In *Participation and Covenant: Contours of a Theodramatic Theology*, Moes develops a theological framework that has participation in the life of God in Christ through the Spirit as its integrative center. In doing so, he enters into conversation with covenant or federal theology, particularly as it has been presented by Michael Horton, in which the integrative center is the concept of the covenant. He argues that God's fundamental relationship with humanity does not entail a covenant ontology—a fundamentally legal and ethical relationship to God, as we find in Horton's presentation—but rather an ontology of participating in God's loving presence in Christ through the Holy Spirit. For this relationship we were created, and this participation is therefore natural to us. Accordingly, a theodramatic framework that incorporates a reframed understanding of divine-human covenants and that has participation in the life of God in Christ by the Spirit as its integrative center is better able to give direction for clearly communicating the gospel in our secular culture and for properly shaping our Christian identity and practice—in the face of the secularism that affects the church, too—than Horton's framework of covenant theology.

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Congregational Music, Conflict and Community Jonathan Dueck, 2017-04-28 *Congregational Music, Conflict and Community* is the first study of the music of the contemporary 'worship wars' – conflicts over church music that continue to animate and divide Protestants today – to be based on long-term in-person observation and interviews. It tells the story of the musical lives of three

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