

Calvin University

Calvin Digital Commons

Symposium on Worship Archive

Morning Plenary Session

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Image, Music, Action

Calvin Seerveld

Institute of Christian Studies

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium>

Recommended Citation

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Image, Music, Action and Seerveld, Calvin, "Morning Plenary Session" (2023). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 2.

<https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium/2005/allitems/2>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symposium on Worship Archive by an authorized administrator of Calvin Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dbm9@calvin.edu.

MORNING PLENARY SESSION
Calvin Seerveld
January 28/29, 2005, Calvin College Chapel
Calvin Symposium on Worship

1. **Calvin Seerveld** is senior member of philosophical aesthetics, emeritus, at the Institute of Christian Studies, Toronto, and past co-chair of the Canadian Society for Aesthetics. His writings and illustrated lectures presented around the world have been profoundly encouraging to contemporary Christian artists. Two of his recent books are *Bearing Fresh Olive Leaves: Alternative Steps in Understanding Art* (Tuppence Press, 2000) and *How to Read the Bible to Hear God Speak* (Dordt College Press, 2003).

2. This session is based on Prof. Seerveld's just released publication *Voicing God's Psalms* (Eerdmans, 2005), and its accompanying audio CD. Note:

- The Worship Institute website will soon include several supporting materials of the book, including additional recorded Psalms, a bibliography of liturgical resources, and additional materials. Visit http://www.calvin.edu/worship/pub/voicing_psalms.htm
- We hope that one significant use of the audio recording that accompanies the book will be with those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, or their homes, establishing a key link between worship and pastoral care.

3. The Psalms are for all of us! Whether we love classical organ music or jazz, contemporary praise music or global songs, the Psalms provide a deep well of instruction and inspiration. In our work at the Worship Institute over the past year, we have been deeply encouraged regarding the use of biblical Psalms in new churches, traditional churches, contemporary churches, urban churches, military bases, nursing homes, and hospitals. For a sampling, see

- Jazz Psalms CD: www.calvin.edu/worship/pub/jazz_psalms.htm
- Japanese resources: www.calvin.edu/worship/globalres/japan.htm
- CD Music of the Genevan Psalter: www.calvin.edu/worship/pub/genevan_psalter.htm
- The Genevan Psalter (midi files, bibliography, annotated discography, 15 psalm-related links) www.redeemer.on.ca/academics/polisci/psalter.html
- An audio clip of a previous Symposium presentation by Marty Haugen: www.calvin.edu/worship/theology/haugen.htm.
- For questions or insights about using the Psalms in church planting ministries, contact Gregg DeMey at gdemey@earthlink.net
- Resources for Praying the Psalms with Teens www.calvin.edu/worship/Worshippers/Youth/Richter.htm
- Resources for service planning based on Psalm 23 and 103: www.calvin.edu/worship/resources/planning/complete_services/series/walk_Jesus/index.htm
www.calvin.edu/worship/resources/planning/complete_services/events/symposium/ain_prayer_ps103.htm
- "Holding Fast to the Psalms: Stories from Hungary" by Beth Lantinga, in *Reformed Worship* 70 (December 2003); also see her stories from Hungary with additional pictures at www.calvin.edu/worship/stories/genevan_psalter.htm
www.calvin.edu/worship/globalres/hungary.htm

4. We are grateful to our guests from Japan who have brought with them copies of a beautiful CD of Genevan Psalmody, sung by members of the famed Bach Collegium Japan and conducted by their founder and conductor, Maestro Masaaki Suzuki. These will be available for sale as soon as possible at the Calvin College bookstore (including, we hope, at their Fine Arts Center exhibit at this conference).

PSALM 8

1 LORD God how great your won - der - ful cre - a - tion!
 2 A - mazed at night I scan the sky and lin - ger
 3 LORD, you have made us hu - mans tru - ly lord - ly,
 4 LORD God how great your won - der - ful cre - a - tion!

Your Name re - sounds through earth each gen - er - a - tion.
 to see the moon and stars made by your fin - ger
 crowned us with cul - ti - vat - ing might and glo - ry.
 Your Name is heard at large by ev - ery na - tion.

Weak ba - by cries still cel - e - brate your laws.
 What good are mor - tal hu - mans on the earth?
 Mar - vel - lous crea - tures— bird and fish and beast—
 Grant us the grace and wise hu - mil - i - ty

Your stun - ning deeds make e - ven scof - fers pause.
 Why do you gent - ly care for us from birth?
 You have sub - ject - ed un - der - neath our feet.
 to claim and serve your rul - ing ma - jes - ty.

Text: Psalm 8; vers. Calvin Seerveld, 1986 © 11 11 10 10
 Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, harm. Chris Thomas, 1983 Genevan 8

leader: Not for us, LORD, not for us;
but do something glorious for Your name!
Make something solid and shining to show Your covenanting
grace and utterly dependable faithfulness!
Why should the peoples all around say,
"And where now is their God"?

people: Our God is in heaven!
Every thing that pleases God, God completes!

leader: Their "gods" are solid gold and silver, (but) made by a human hand.
Their fake gods have a mouth but cannot speak;
they have eyes but cannot see!
Ears they have but cannot hear;
a nose is there, but they cannot smell--
their hands cannot touch things.
Their feet cannot go for a walk.
No sound passes through their throat...

people: Like them become those who made them!
Like them become all those who feel secure with them.

leader: Israel! get to feel secure with the LORD God:

people: a relief and a protection is the LORD for such people.

leader: (Priestly) house of Aaron! bind yourselves only to the LORD God:

people: a relief and a protection is the LORD for such people.

leader: You (newcomers) who fear Yahweh! trust--trust the LORD God:

people: a relief and a protection is God for such people.

leader: The LORD God has kept us in mind: God shall bless--

people: Bless the house of Israel!
Bless the (priestly) house of Aaron!
Bless those who fear the LORD God!

leader: --the unimportant ones together with the very important ones...


May the LORD God prosper you, you and your children.
May all of you be blessed by the LORD God, who made heaven and earth.

Heaven (you know) belongs specially to the LORD:
The earth is what God gave for the sons and daughters of man (to tend).



Dead men and women do not praise the LORD,
not one of those who have gone down to where it is deathly still.
But we people here, let us bless the LORD!
from now on and for ever more:

people: thank God--hallelujah!


The Shepherd Psalm Today



1. The LORD my shep-herd sat-is-fies our 'ev' - ry an-xious re-quest
2. The LORD re-stores me to my-self, brings us re-solve for God's sake
3. When death's dark shad-ows fall my lot, I still will fear no e - vil,
4. The en - e-mies can on - ly stare while You pre-pare our ban-quets
5. Your cov - e - nan - tal mer-cy, Lord, and prom - ised Pre-sence ex-tend

by lead-ing us to ver-dant grass where flow-ing streams give rest.
to fol-low Christ in mak-ing peace, and find just paths to take.
for You, my Lord, hold us so close, ward off what would do ill.
with o - ver-flow-ing cups of wine, a - noint with joy our heads!
rich bless-ing to our com - ing lives: sha-lom will ne v er end.



Text: The Shepherd Psalm Today, Calvin Seerveld © 2004
Tune: Neil Dougall, 1831

8786
Kilmarnock

A Congregational Lament

1 Why, Lord, must e - vil seem to get its way? We do con -
 2 Why, Lord, must he be sen-tenced, locked a - way? True, he has
 3 Why, Lord, must she be left to waste a - way? Do you not
 4 Why, Lord, must bro - ken vows cut like a knife? How can one

fess our sin is deep - ly shame - ful; but now the
 wronged his neigh - bor and has failed you. Yet none of
 see how pain - ful - ly she suf - fers? Could you not
 wed - ded bod - y break in piec - es? We all have

wick - ed o - pen - ly are scorn - ful— they mock your
 us is in - no - cent and sin - less; on - ly by
 change the curse of this di - sas - ter? A - maze us
 failed at be - ing pure and faith - ful; on - ly by

name and laugh at our dis - may. We know your prov - i -
 grace we fol - low in your way. We plead: Re - pair the
 by your might - y sov - er - eign - ty. We plead: Re - pair the
 grace we keep our sol - emin vows. We plead: Re - pair the

Note: In stanzas 2, 3, and 5 the words *he/she* and *brother/sister* are interchangeable; also, *they* may be substituted for both *he* and *she*. Ordinarily, two stanzas will be sung—the first introductory stanza and one other according to the particular need:

imprisonment (st. 2) untimely death (st. 5)
 illness (st. 3) other times of deep hurt (st. 6)
 divorce (st. 4)

Text: Cathon Stearns, 1986, ©
 Tune: Genevan Psalter, 1551; harm. Claude Gouffier, 1564

(Psalter Hymnal 576)

den - tial love holds true: noth - ing can curse us end - less -
 bro - ken - ness we share. Chas - tise no more lest it de -
 bro - ken - ness we share. Chas - tise no more lest it de -
 bro - ken - ness we share. Chas - tise no more lest it de -

ly with sor - row. Trans - form, dear Lord, this dam - age in - to
 stroy your crea - tures. Hear this la - ment as in - ter - ces - sory
 stroy your crea - tures. Hear this la - ment as in - ter - ces - sory
 stroy your crea - tures. Hear this la - ment as in - ter - ces - sory

good; show us your glo - ry, hid - den by this e - vil.
 prayer, and speak your power - ful word to make us hope - ful.
 prayer, and speak your power - ful word to make us hope - ful.
 prayer, and speak your power - ful word to make us hope - ful.

- 5 Why, Lord, did you abruptly take him home?
 Could you not wait to summon him before you?
 Why must we feel the sting of death's old cruelty?
 Come quickly, Lord, do not leave us alone.
 We plead: Repair the brokenness we share.
 Chastise no more lest it destroy your creatures.
 Hear this lament as intercessory prayer,
 and speak your powerful word to make us hopeful.
- 6 Why, Lord, must any child of yours be hurt?
 Does all our pain and sorrow somehow please you?
 You are a God so jealous for our praises—
 hear this lament as prayer that fills the earth.
 We plead: Repair the brokenness we share.
 Chastise no more lest it destroy your creatures.
 Hear this lament as intercessory prayer,
 and speak your powerful word to make us hopeful.

God Keeps My Tears in a Bottle

Psalm 56:8

Solo voice

1 There's peo - ple out to hurt me bad. They
 2 They dog my steps, pro - voke my life, and
 3 I know, my Lord, You keep good track of

men - ace, play the bul - ly. When I can't help but
 twist my words to lies. O Lord! ex - pose their
 all the pain and trou - ble, col - lect my tears like

be a - fraid, O God! pro - tect me ful - ly.
 e - vil plans and cut them down to size!
 bro - ken jewels and save them in a bot - tle.

Congregation (after stanzas 2 and 3)

Be mer - ci - ful to me, O God!

Solo voice

4 The en - e - mies shall be un - done the
 5 What mor - tals can de - stroy my life? The
 6 It's time to of - fer thanks to You, to

day God hears my plea. I know with ut - ter
 LORD God's Word is sure. I do not need to
 dance be - fore your face. O God, You res - cued

cer - tain - ty God does stand up for me!
 be a - fraid: God's arms hold me se - cure.
 me from death to live a life of grace!

Solo voice and congregation (after stanza 6 only)

Thank you for your mer - cy, Lord! A - men!

PSALM 110



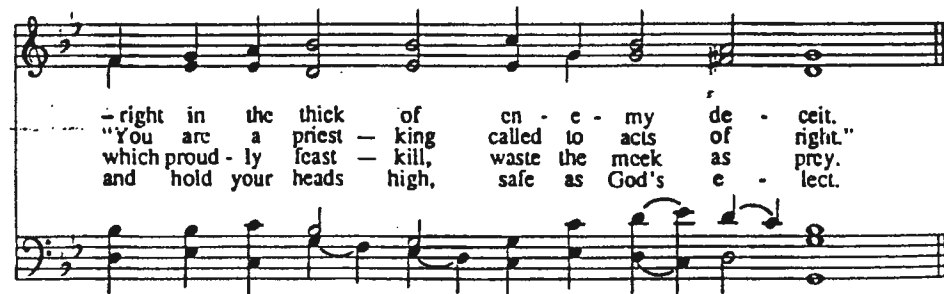
1. "Sit at my right hand," said the LORD to my Lord,
 2. Your youth - ful strength shall come like dew at sun - rise;
 3. The sov - ereign Lord stands guard for your pro - tec - tion;
 4. The LORD makes cov - e - nant with God's a - noint - ed



"While I sub - ject your foes be - neath your feet."
 to lead your pledged folk read - y for the fight.
 he shall wreak ven - geance on the judge - ment Day.
 who fol - low Christ, the true Mel - chiz - e - deck:



The LORD shall bless your rul - ing from Mount Zi - on
 The LORD has sworn, God nev - er shall re - voke it:
 The Lord shall smash all mil - i - tar - y for - ces
 daunt - ed in strug - gle, you shall drink fresh wa - ter,



- right in the thick of en - e - my de - ceit.
 "You are a priest - king called to acts of right."
 which proud - ly feast - kill, waste the meek as prey.
 and hold your heads high, safe as God's e - lect.

Text Psalm 110; vers. Calvin Seerveld 1980 ©
 Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1988

11 10 11 10 GENEVAN 110

When God Brought Zion's Remnant Band 126

1 When God brought Zi - on's rem - nant band back to the land, we felt like
 2 Please bless our new be - gin - nings, LORD, as you re - filled the Neg - ev's

we were dream - ing. Why, e - ven un - be - liev - ers
 dried - out ba - sin; so those who suf - fered sow - ing

said, "The LORD has led with might - y works, re - deem - ing."
 seed will now be freed to reap with deep e - la - tion.

Come, laugh for joy! our songs em - ploy - the LORD has won, great
 Who sows with tears, but per - se - veres, comes home a - gain with

things be - gun, has filled our lives with mean - ing!
 sheaves of grain, sur - prised by God's sal - va - tion.

Psalm 126; vers. Calvin Semveld, 1985, ©
 J. Klug's Geistliche Lieder, 1535; harm. Dale Grottenhais, 1985. (Psalter-Hymnal 126) 847 847 887
 Harmonization © 1987, CRC Publications
 Used by permission.

Song of Jonah

1 In the fish for three days bur - ied, I kept call - ing,
 2 Down to death the waves had pulled me, down, en-tombed where
 3 In de - spair, a - fraid of dy - ing, I im - plored you
 4 In the tomb for three days bur - ied, Christ had gone to

"Save me, LORD! Keep me from the hell - ish grave - yard,
 none sur - vive. Sea - weed round my head was tan - gled;
 anx - ious - ly. Un - like those who shirk their prom - ise,
 face the worst. Just as God took care of Jo - nah,

lost at sea, by you ig - nored." Tossed and turned be -
 wa - ter swal - lowed me a - live. "Is God's face now
 I bring of - ferings thank - ful - ly. Take my life I
 God raised Je - sus as the first. All who know the

neath rough wa - ters, chok - ing in your whirl-pool sea, I cried out
 gone for - ev - er? Have I for - feit - ed God's care?" No! You save
 vowed to give you; bless my joy, and make it known. Let all kno
 Ho - ly Spir - it shall de - feat the grip of sin. Christ has cor

"My life is fin - ished!" But, O LORD, you an - swered me.
 me from de - struc - tion, raised me, LORD, and heard my prayer.
 that sure de - liv - erance comes from God the LORD a lone.
 quered death and Sa - tan: let the ju - bi - lee be - gin!

A Congregational Paean

1 How shall we thank you, Lord, for joy and this sur - prise?
 2 How good it is to see Your heal - ing touch of health
 3 How good it is to have all toil - some ten - sion past.
 4 How good it is to know Your grace fills out one's life
 5 How good it is to see our *broth - er face to face,
 6 How good it is to taste ex - ul - tant ju - bi - lee!

You have come through a - gain to re - cre - ate our lives.
 re - store (**'s) blood and breath to nor - mal life's prime wealth.
 You have sup - plied a fruit - ful fin - ish now at last.
 from sol - i - tar - y walk to wed - ded hus - band wife.
 brought back from ex - ile sound, kept safe by Your em - brace.
 You feed us from the hon - ey - comb, and make us free.

We stand a - mazed: Your prov - i - den - tial hand looks af - ter
 Gone is the pain, the doubts, *his feel - ing un - pro - tect - ed:
 Strug - gles and set - backs plagued the ar - duous un - der - tak - ing.
 In - ti - ma - cy and pas - sion joined by love are gift - ed
 Cap - tiv - i - ty is cruel and breaks the best com - mun - ion:
 Your gen - er - os - i - ty pro - vides more than re - quest - ed:

our strug - gling dai - ly cares; Your kiss fills mouths with laugh - ter.
 You wiped a - way the tears when suf - fering was ex - spect - ed—
 but You or - dained the out - come far be - yond our mak - ing—
 by you, O God, with dou - ble power and joy com - mit - ted—
 God, swal - low up our loss; be - gin with this re - un - ion—
 teach us to dance and sing, Your chil - dren glad and fes - tive—

Hear our ex - cit - ed shouts, Lord, spir - its now are buoy - ant.
 praised be your Name, O Lord, You have re - deemed *his sto - ry!
 praised be your Name, O Lord, You have re - deemed *her sto - ry!
 praised be your Name, O Lord, You have re - deemed their sto - ry!
 praised be your Name, O Lord, You have re - deemed our sto - ry!
 praised be your name, O Lord, You have re - deemed our sto - ry!

Your sim - ple mir - a - cle turns trou - ble in - to tri - umph.
 We cheer Your mys - ter - y and cel - e - brate Your glo - ry.
 We cheer Your mys - ter - y and cel - e - brate Your glo - ry.
 We cheer Your mys - ter - y and cel - e - brate Your glo - ry.
 We cheer Your mys - ter - y and cel - e - brate Your glo - ry.
 We cheer Your mys - ter - y and cel - e - brate Your glo - ry.

- ** insert the name of the one who is intended for commemoration
- * use his/her/their or brother/sister/members as appropriate

Stanza 1 usually is sung first. Then the congregation sings the stanza appropriate for the occasion.

- Stanza 2 For unexpected healing
- Stanza 3 For completion of a difficult task
- Stanza 4 For second, late, or remarriage in the Lord
- Stanza 5 For release of captive of hostage
- Stanza 6 For other special festive events, or use as final stanza