

Calvin University

Calvin Digital Commons

Symposium on Worship Archive

2013 - The Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5 - 7)

Welcoming the Arts in Worship

Betty Grit

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

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



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Grit, Betty, "Welcoming the Arts in Worship" (2013). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 30.
<https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium/2013/allitems/30>

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.

**Workshop C11 Welcoming the Arts in Worship
Symposium January, 2013
Betty Grit, Worship Renewal Grants Program**

Worship Renewal Grant recipients will describe how engaging people of all ages and cultures in leading worship through dance, music, video, and visual art is bringing renewal in worship.

Blessed is the congregation in which the Word is proclaimed
and prayers and praise are offered
not only through words,
but also through artistic expression:
through gifts God has given
to each local community
in music and dance,
in speech and silence,
in visual art and architecture.
Blessed are the artists
who offer and discipline their gifts
so God's people may
testify to the goodness of God, offer thanks and
express repentance..

Wise are artists who are grateful
both for the limitations offered by the second
commandment,
and also for the example of the biblical artists called
by God
and equipped by God's people for service
according to God's commands. (Ex 35.30ff)

Wise is the church
that gratefully receives
the gifts of faithful songs and artworks
from other centuries and other cultures,
celebrating the catholicity of the church,
and cultivating creativity
through new songs and works for worship.
<http://www.calvin.edu/cicw/resources/pdf/Worshiping%20the%20Triune%20God.pdf>

Glenda Brown, The Crossing Baptist Church, Mesquite, TX
Michael Chen, La Salle Street Church, Chicago, IL
Michelle Loyd-Paige, Angel Community Church, Muskegon, MI

What new artistic practices might we use in worship?

How might we invite worshipers to learn more about the significance of the arts in worship?

What is Worship Renewal?

Worship renewal cannot be reduced to a formula or generated by a set of techniques. As you begin your planning, we invite you to prayerfully consider these dynamics and characteristics of worship renewal, which we continue to learn about from the work of congregations.

- Worship renewal cannot be produced or engineered by human ingenuity, but is a gift of God's Spirit. Renewal is a gift for which we pray, rather than an accomplishment we achieve.
- Worship renewal mines the riches of scripture and leads worshipers to deeper encounters with Christ and the gospel message.
- Worship renewal arises from, and leads to, the full, conscious, and active participation of all worshipers— young and old, the powerless and powerful, newcomers and lifelong worshipers.
- Worship renewal leads a congregation beyond itself to give itself away to minister to the needs of the local community and the world.
- Worship renewal happens best in healthy congregations, which are marked by honesty, integrity, unity, and pastoral concern for each worshiper.

Ten Core Convictions About Christian Worship

1. A vivid awareness of the beauty, majesty, mystery and holiness of the triune God.
2. The full, conscious, active participation of all worshipers, in the context of a fully intergenerational community.
3. Deep engagement with Scripture
4. Joyful and solemn celebrations of baptism and the Lord's Supper, which focus squarely on the redemptive work of Jesus Christ in all of creation, and are deeply aware of how God's spirit works to nurture and strengthen faith through these celebrations.
5. Balanced approach to culture
6. Disciplined creativity in the arts
7. Collaboration with congregational ministries
8. Warm, Christ-centered hospitality for all people
9. Intentional integration between worship and all of life
10. Collaborative planning and evaluation

<http://worship.calvin.edu/>

**Questions? Contact Betty Grit at
worshipgrants@calvin.edu**