

List of recommended books by Dr Ruth for those planning and leading worship

Here are books on worship I would recommend for your library and my reasons why I recommend them.

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010; ISBN 978-0-8010-3874-7).

This book is a balanced, creative, practical, and theological discussion on how to put together a revelation/remembrance and response order of worship.

Cherry, Constance M., Mary M. Brown, and Christopher T. Bounds. *Selecting Worship Songs: A Guide for Leaders* (Triangle Publishing, 2011; ISBN 978-1-931283-42-7).

This trio of professors at Indiana Wesleyan (a musician, a poet, and a theologian) team up to offer concrete ideas on how to assess congregational songs in multiple dimensions.

Long, Thomas G. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship* (The Alban Institute, 2001; ISBN 1-56699-240-0).

I appreciate how Long identifies qualities to be found in “vital and faithful” worship, qualities that extend beyond any style labels.

Malefyt, Norma deWaal and Howard Vanderwell. *Designing Worship Together: Models and Strategies for Worship Planning* (The Alban Institute, 2005; ISBN 1-56699-296-6).

A nice, practical book written by a pastor/musician team on the nuts-and-bolts of the people issues involved in planning and assessing worship.

Rienstra, Debra and Ron Rienstra. *Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry* (Baker Academic, 2009; ISBN 978-0-8010-3616-3).

A careful, well-written look at the role and use of language for praying, singing, and preaching in the worship practices of the church. It will lead to a renewed appreciation of the beauty and power of words in worship.

Scheer, Greg. *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship* (Baker Books, 2006; ISBN 978-0-8010-6709-X).

From a practicing musician's point of view, this book investigates both the practical how-to's to the various musical dimensions of leading and preparing for worship, presented with theological substance.

Chan, Simon. *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshipping Community* (IVP Academic, 2006; ISBN 978-0-8308-2763-3).

Written from a solid evangelical perspective, this Singapore theologian lays out a great theology of the church as the basis for seeing what worship truly is and can be.

OR Parry, Robin. *Worshipping Trinity* (Paternoster; ISBN 1-84227-347-7)

A quick, accessible read on the relationship of the Trinity to Christian worship with an eye for practical ideas in “contemporary” services.

OR Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace* (IVP Academic, 1997; ISBN 9780830818952).

Another great, short book on often overlooked but essential dimensions of the Trinitarian nature of Christian worship.

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship* (Abingdon; ISBN 0-687-03414-0).

It is what it says it is: a brief history of Christian worship. What it doesn't say makes it useful a book: it is a solid, easily ready, hitting-all-the-key-points history. Having a little historical perspective can go a long way.

White, James F. *The Sacraments in Protestant Faith and Practice* (Abingdon, 1999; ISBN 9780687034024).

What White does in his short history of all worship, he carries on in this short, accessible review of different Protestant approaches to the Lord's Supper and baptism.

Benedict, Jr., Daniel T. *Comes to the Waters: Baptism and Our Ministry of Welcoming Seekers and Making Disciples*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996 and Ruth, Lester. *Accompanying the Journal: A Handbook for Sponsors*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1997.

These two books provide the details for how to have an extended period of baptismal preparation for candidates, following the early church model.

Ryan, Paul. *Contemporary Songs for Worship* (Faith Alive, 2010).

Although most of these songs are well known, the real contribution of this little song collection is its organization. The songs are organized by how they would fit into the sort of order found in the United Methodist resources.