

2008 Calvin Symposium on Worship
An Invitation to “The Liturgy of the Hours”, Session D-27
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Outline

- I. The Liturgy of the Hours – Also known as...
- II. The Liturgy of the Hours – History
- III. The Liturgy of the Hours – Practice
- IV. The Liturgy of the Hours – Resources

The Liturgy of the Hours – Also known as...

- Fixed Hours of Prayers: (Early Christian Church)
- Liturgy of the Hours (Roman Catholic)
- Divine Hours (Eastern Orthodox)
- Daily Offices (Benedictine)
- Common Prayer – (Episcopalian or Anglican)

The Liturgy of the Hours – History

- Time of Jesus (1st century)
- Early Church Fathers (4th century)
- Middle Ages: (13-16th centuries)
 - Illustrated Books of Hours-best sellers for 250 years
 - Illuminated Manuscripts
 - The Visconti Hours, for Giangaleazzo Visconti of Milan by Giovannino dei Grassi, & Belbello da Pavia (1402-1412)
 - The Tres Riches Heures of Jean, Duke of Berry, French landscape (1416)
- Reformation – Morning and evening prayer in the vernacular, simplified
- Roman Catholics (16th century) primarily for priests and monastics in Latin. Eight times a day.
- Vatican Two (1962) Liturgy of the Hours revamped. Morning and evening prayers for lay people.
- Contemporary Times (Examples of places that practice the Liturgy of the Hours)
 - Iona (small island off of Scotland’s west coast)
 - Taize (southern France)
 - Trappist Abbeys of Gethsemane in Kentucky (made famous by Thomas Merton) and Genesee in New York (made famous by Henri Nouwen)
 - Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis, (Bethlehem, Connecticut)
 - Anglican St. Gregory’s Abbey (Three Rivers, Michigan)
- Geographically, theologically, denominationally, and temperamentally diverse Christians can be united by the Liturgy of the Hours.

The Liturgy of the Hours – Practice:

- Teaches us to pray
 - Immerses us in Scripture
 - Unites us with all believers who have gone before us and believers around the world
 - Makes us aware of the passing of time in the liturgical year
 - Provides words for us in tough times
 - Regularly draws our attention back to God throughout the day.
- As opposed to: “ad hoc, self-directed, disconnected, and subjective prayers”. (A.Boers)

- Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis, Bethlehem, Connecticut found at <http://www.abbeyofreginalaudis.com/sitelive/index.htm>
 - The place
 - The purpose
 - The practice

The Liturgy of the Hours – Resources (link to prayer books found at www.jesuscreed.org)

- “A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers”
- “The Liturgy of the Hours”
- “Thomas Merton, A Book of Hours”
- “The Divine Hours” by Phyllis Tickle
- “The Divine Hours: Pocket Edition” by Phyllis Tickle
- “Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter of Morning and Night Prayer” J. Philip Newell
- “The Book of Common Prayer” by Thomas Cranmer
- “Hour by Hour”, Forward Movement Publications.

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