**MELANIE C. ROSS**

Yale Institute of Sacred Music & Divinity School

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New Haven, CT 06511

[Melanie.Ross@yale.edu](mailto:Melanie.Ross@yale.edu)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Theology/Liturgical Studies. University of Notre Dame.

M.A.R. *magna cum laude.* Yale Divinity School and Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

B.A. *magna cum laude.* Music Education. Messiah College.

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies (with tenure), Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, 2022-

Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies (on term), Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, 2018-2022.

Assistant Professor of Liturgical Studies, Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, 2012-2018.

Assistant Professor of Worship Leadership, Huntington University, 2010-2012.

Visiting Lecturer, St. John’s University, Summer 2010.

Instructor, University of Notre Dame, 2009-2010

**MONOGRAPHS**

IN PROGRESS:

*Worship, Inc: The Commercialization of a Theological Ideal*

PUBLISHED:

*Evangelical Worship: An American Mosaic* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), 320 pp.

*Evangelical versus Liturgical? Defying a Dichotomy*; The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2014), 149 pp.

**CO-EDITED VOLUMES**

*Historical Foundations of Worship: Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Perspectives*. Contributor and series co-editor (with Mark Lamport). (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022), 294 pp.

*The Serious Business of Worship: Essays in Honour of Bryan D. Spinks.* (with Simon Jones) (London; New York: T & T Clark, 2010), 229 pp.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“New Frontiers in Evangelical Worship.” *Studia Liturgica* 51.2 (2021): 159-172.

“The Evolution of the ‘Frontier Ordo’: Anton Baumstark Visits Willow Creek.” *Worship* 93.2 (2019): 139-157.

“Evangelical Worship: A Conversation with Three Publics.” *International Journal of Public Theology* 12.2 (2018): 178-194.

“Good Worship: An Evangelical Free Church Perspective.” *Liturgy* (2014): 3-8.

“Lefts and Rites: One Evangelical’s Perspective.” *Liturgy* 23.1 (2008): 35-43.

“Jonathan Edwards: Advice to Weary Theologians.” *Scottish Journal of Theology* 59.1 (2006): 14-26.

“Joseph’s Britches Revisited: Reflections on Method in Liturgical Theology.” *Worship* 80.6 (2006): 528-550. Reprinted in Maxwell Johnson, ed. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, 90-93.

“Dunking Doughnuts? Rethinking Free Church Baptismal Theology.” *Pro Ecclesia* 14.4 (2005): 433-446.

“The Risk of Faith: An Evangelical Engages Aidan Kavanagh.” *Worship* 78.6 (2004): 518-540.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES**

AT PRESS, SUBMITTED, OR IN PROGRESS

“Assessing an Emerging Church,” in *Doing Liturgical Theology: Method in Context,*eds. Jason McFarland and Stephen Burns. Leuven: Peeters (Liturgia Condenda). At press.

“Megachurch Movements,” in *Oxford Handbook of Music and Christian Theology,* ed. Emmett G. Price III and Timothy H. Steele. Submitted.

“Liturgies Beyond the Reformation: Anabaptist, Quaker, Methodist, Pentecostal, Evangelical,” in *Cambridge Companion to Christian Liturgy,* ed. Joris Geldhof. In progress.

“The Influence of the BCP on Other Liturgies,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Book of Common Prayer*, ed. Paul Bradshaw, Luiz Coelho, Ruth Meyers. In progress.

PUBLISHED

“Evangelical Practices of Worship,” in *Historical Foundations of Worship: Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Perspectives*, ed. Melanie Ross and Mark Lamport. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022), 253-266.

“Liturgy’s Past on the American Frontier,” in *Liturgy’s Imagined Past/s: Methodologies and Materials in the Writing of Liturgical History Today,* ed. Teresa Berger and Bryan D. Spinks (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2016), 230-250.

“Church of the Second Chance: Reconciliation Among the Saint Maybes,” in *At the Heart of the Liturgy: Conversations with Nathan D. Mitchell’s “Amen Corners,” 1991-2012,* ed. Maxwell E. Johnson, Timothy P. O’Malley, and Demetrio S. Yokum (Collegeville; Liturgical Press, 2014), 160-172.

“The Serious Drama of Worship,” in *The Serious Business of Worship*, ed. Melanie Ross and Simon Jones, (London; New York: T & T Clark, 2010), 185-198.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

AT PRESS, SUBMITTED, OR IN PROGRESS

*Essays on the History of Contemporary Praise and Worship.* Edited by Lester Ruth.Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2020. *Worship* (submitted) .

*Evangelicals Engaging in Practical Theology: Theology that Impacts Church and World,* ed. Helen Morris and Helen Cameron. London: Routledge, 2022. *Ecclesial Practices* (in progress).

*Making Christianity Manly Again: Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church, and American Evangelicalism.* Jennifer McKinney. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. *Worship* (in progress).

PUBLISHED

*Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life,* by Antonio Eduardo Alonso. New York: Fordham University Press, 2021. *Scottish Journal of Theology* 75.2 (2022): 173-174.

*Worship with Gladness: Understanding Worship from the Heart,* by Joyce Ann Zimmerman. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. *Theology Today* 73.1 (2016): 77-78.

*The Trinitarian Ethics of Jonathan Edwards,* byWilliam J. Danaher, Jr., Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004*. Scottish Journal of Theology* 62.4 (2009): 503-505.

*Ordo: Bath, Word, Prayer, Table.* Edited by Dirk Lange and Dwight Vogel. Akron: OSL Publications, 2005. *Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy Bulletin,* Fall 2006.

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Teacher-Scholar Vital Worship Grant: “Worship, Inc: The Commercialization of a Theological Ideal” ($18,000), 2022-2023.

Selected Participant, Writing Beyond the Academy, Collegeville Institute (Lilly Foundation), Summer 2017.

Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Award ($75,000), 2014-2015.

Louisville Sabbatical Grant for Researchers ($40,000), 2014-2015

Theology Departmental Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2005-2010.

Summer Dissertation Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2008, 2009.

Faculty Prize, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, 2004.

Liturgical Studies Prize, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, 2003.

**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

“Evangelical Worship: An American Mosaic.” Liturgical Theology Seminar, Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2023.

“American Evangelical Worship: A Field Report and an Opportunity for Reflection.” Symposium. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI, January 2023.

“Glocal Perspectives on Contemporary Praise and Worship.” Panelist. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI, January 2023.

“The Genius of Evangelicalism.” Keynote Address. The Society of the Holy Trinity, Chicago, IL. September 2022.

“Patterns of Worship: Notes from the Field.” Sing! Getty Music Worship Conference, Nashville, TN. September 2022.

“Ethnography and Evangelical Worship.” Zoom guest lecture for “Liturgical Theology” course at University of Notre Dame, April 2022.

“Worship and the Imago Dei.” Veritas Theology Institute at Huntington University, Summer 2021.

“Where Two or Three (Thousand) Are Gathered.” Symposium. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI, January 2020.

“Contemporary Evangelical Worship.” Presentation for Philadelphia Liturgical Institute. Villanova University, March 2019.

Faculty Lecturer, Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Gallant, Alabama, Feb 2019.

“The Use of Ethnography in Liturgical Theology.” Liturgical Theology Seminar, Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2018.

“‘Seeker Services’ Then and Now: Inside America’s Most Influential Megachurch.” Colloquium, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT., February 2017.

“Defying the Dichotomy Between Evangelical and Liturgical Churches” and “The Evangelical Worship Mosaic: Patterns and Tensions in 21st Century Worship.” Symposium. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI, January 2017.

“Form or Freedom: What is Spirit-Led Worship?” Evangelical Theological Society, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

“Evangelical Worship: An American Mosaic.” Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Conference, Pittsburgh, PA., November 2016.

“Defying Worship Dichotomies.” Guest lecture for “Worship in the Church” course at Houghton College, February 2016.

“What We Get Wrong About Worship.” Faith and Culture Symposium. Belmont University, Nashville, TN, February 2015.

“Faithful and Vital Worship: What are the Options and Questions?” Keynote Address. Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK, January 2015.

“Liturgy’s Past on the American Frontier.” Conference. Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT, June 2014.

“Evangelical versus Liturgical?” Invited Talk, Fuller Theological Seminar, Pasadena, CA, February 2014.

“North American Evangelicals: A New Theology of Worship?” Symposium. University of Exeter, Exeter, England, June 2013.

“Primordial Time and Liturgical Beginnings.” Symposium. Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT, March 2013.

“Evangelical vs. Liturgical: Lessons from Biblical Studies.” Liturgical Theology Seminar, Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2012.

“Worship as Holy Play.” Liturgical Theology Seminar, Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2009.

“Dunking Doughnuts? Rethinking Free Church Baptismal Theology.” Liturgical Theology Seminar, Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2005.

**OTHER INTERVIEWS, PUBLICATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS (Selected)**

Podcast interview with Corey Nathan and Jessica Stone, hosts. *Talkin’ Politics & Religion Without Killin’ Each Other*, March 2022, <https://www.politicsandreligion.us/e/drmelanieross_evangelicalworship/>

Podcast interview with Duke Worship Research Group, hosts. “Identities, Worship Wars, and the ‘Frontier’ in Studying Evangelical Worship (w/ Dr. Melanie Ross).” *Conversations on Contemporary Worship*, episode 6, Dec 2021, [https://sites.duke.edu/contemporaryworship/#](https://sites.duke.edu/contemporaryworship/)

Invited Talk. First Friday Series: “Finding God at Yale.” Rivendell Institute, Yale University. October 2020.

“The Search for a Grown-Up Youth Culture,” *Reflections: A Magazine of Theological and Ethical Inquiry from Yale Divinity School,* Spring 2014.

Invited sermon. Homecoming Chapel. Messiah College, October 2014.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

INSITUTIONAL SERVICE AT YALE

Faculty MAR Coordinator (Liturgical Studies), Divinity School, Spring 2023

Admissions Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, Spring 2023.

Admissions Committee. Divinity School, Spring 2023.

Community Life Committee. Divinity School, Spring 2023

Task Force on Student Financial Aid. Divinity School, Spring 2023

Sacred Music Studies Faculty Search Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2021-2022.

Professional Studies Committee. Divinity School, 2021-2022.

Admissions Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2021-2022.

Task Force for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Institute of Sacred Music, 2020-2021.

Colloquium Planning Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2020-2021.

Admissions Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2019-2020.

Study Trip Planning Committee (Peru). Institute of Sacred Music, 2019-2020.

Postdoctoral Fellows Selection Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2019-2020.

Chapel Committee. Divinity School, 2016-2020.

Liturgy Conference Planning Committee (“Full of Your Glory: Liturgy, Cosmos, Creation”).

Institute of Sacred Music, 2016-2017.

Colloquium Planning Committee. Institute of Sacred Music, 2016-2017.

Study Trip Planning Committee (Italy). Institute of Sacred Music, 2013-2014.

Consultant, Congregations Project. Institute of Sacred Music, 2013-2014.

Liturgy Conference Planning Committee (“Liturgy’s Imagined Past/s: Methodologies and

Materials in the Writing of Liturgical History”). Institute of Sacred Music, 2013-2014.

Community Life Committee. Divinity School, 2012-2014.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

Convener, Liturgical Theology Seminar, North American Academy of Liturgy, 2019-2023

Consultant, *Forum for Worship and the Arts*, Samford University, 2013-2014.

Membership Committee, North American Academy of Liturgy, 2010-2012.

MANUSCRIPT AND EDITORIAL REVIEW WORK

Liturgies and Prayers Advisor, *Sing! Hymnal,* Crossway, 2025

Editorial Board, *Worship,* 2018-

Advisory Board, *Dynamics of Christian Worship* series, InterVarsity Press, 2017-

Manuscript Reviews for: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, *International Journal of Public Theology, Modern Theology, Studia Liturgica, Worship*

**TEACHING**

YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL/INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

REL 604. Ritual Theory for Liturgical Studies

REL 608. Reformed Worship

Co-taught with Nora Tubbs Tisdale

REL 611. American Evangelical Worship

REL 617. Worship, Culture, and Technology

REL 635. What is a Sacrament?

REL 650. Worship and Evangelism

REL 655. Liturgy and Life

REL 675. Baptism and Eucharist in Ecumenical Dialogue

REL 682. Foundations of Christian Worship

Offered regularly, in rotation with other faculty

REL 690. Introduction to Liturgical Theology

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY

MI 264. Theology of Worship

MI 285. Understanding the Christian Faith

MI 304. Multimedia and Technology in Worship

MI 314. Worship Leadership for the Contemporary Church

MI 344. Worship Literature

MI 373. Theological and Ethical Issues in Ministry

MI 496. Field Ministry Immersion

**THESIS AND EXAM COMMITTEES**

AT YALE

Florig, Mark. Reader for M.A.R. Thesis, “The Anglo-Catholic Development of Evangelical

Principles,” Yale Divinity School, May 2021.

Anthony, Cate. Reader of M.Div. Thesis, “Restoration and Community: Theological, Pastoral,

and Liturgical Perspectives,” Yale Divinity School, May 2020.

Novak, Izzak. Reader of M.A. R. Thesis, “‘We Cannot See the Tree for the Branches’: Young

Friends’ Institutions and Their Role in Mid-Century US Quakerism,” Yale Divinity School, May 2020.

Hawks, A.J. Reader for S.T.M. Thesis, “American Nür: Islam, Media Symbolism, Transnational

Identities, and the Incorporation of Muslim Immigrants in the American Civil Sphere,” Yale Divinity School, 2016-2017.

Perez, Adam A. Reader for M.A.R. Thesis, “ ‘Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God’: Ecumenism

and the Inclusion of Contemporary Worship Music in Protestant Mainline Denominational Hymnals,” Yale Divinity School, May 2016.

Peckham, Hannah. Reader for MAR Thesis, “Women Beyond the Cave”: Melody Green, 1982-

1995,” Yale Divinity School, Fall 2016.

McNeal, Kathryn. Reader for S.T.M. Thesis, “First Impressions of a Congregation,” Yale

Divinity School, 2015-2016.

Dunn, Abigail. Reader for M.A.R. Thesis, “In My Father’s House: Sacred Space in James

Baldwin’s ‘Crying Holy’ and Published Fiction,” Yale Divinity School, May 2013.

Stratton, Kate. Reader for S.T.M. Thesis, “Liturgical Drama and the Gospel Embrace of Human

Materiality: Revealing the Real, Welcoming the Stranger, Bringing the ‘Good News’ to Life,” Yale Divinity School, 2012-2013.

EXTERNAL

Saw, Edmund. “Liturgical Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Christian Worship in Hong Kong,”

Ph.D. Dissertation, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Prospectus Defense,

April 2022.

Ottaway, Jonathan. “To Dwell in the House of the Lord: The Roles of Scripture in the Practice of

24/7 Worship in the Pentecostal-Charismatic Tradition,” Ph.D. dissertation, Duke Divinity School. Dissertation Defense, November 2022.

Cowan, Nelson “Liturgical Biography as Liturgical Theology: Co-Constructing Theology at

Hillsong Church, New York City,” Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University. Dissertation Defense, March 2019.

Lemley, David. “Liturgies of the Word and Turntable: Social and Sacramental Effectiveness of

Contemporary Worship Music,” Ph.D. dissertation, Fuller Theological Seminary. Outside Reader, 2013.