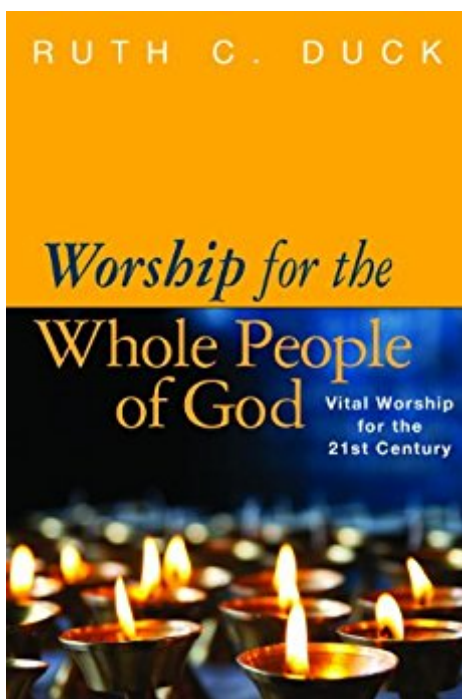


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Worship For The Whole People Of God



Synopsis

This new book on worship by renowned hymn writer and professor Ruth C. Duck provides theological foundations for worship and explores the variety of ways Christians have adapted worship to various cultures to help them live faithfully and to communicate the Gospel to others. The author celebrates the many languages and cultural settings in which the Gospel has been, and is, preached, sung, and prayed. The goal of this volume is to support good pastoral and congregational reflection on what worship is and does. Consequently, Duck discusses many different forms of worship from several cultures (African-American, Asian, Euro-American) and offers advice on how to read a congregation and define its culture in order to plan culturally appropriate worship. Although the book does not offer prescriptive formulas or advise a single pattern of worship, it includes many practical suggestions for preparing and leading worship, including diverse ministries of music, movement, and visual arts that are becoming more popular today. From worship's theological underpinnings, the book turns to worship leadership, forms of prayer, preaching, the sacraments, ordination, and various liturgies. Because of its emphasis on Spirit-led worship, this comprehensive book on Christian worship will be used for years to come not only as a core textbook for seminarians and ministry students from a variety of cultures and traditions, but also as a resource for local church pastors and laity who are dedicated to the enlivening of Christian worship.

Book Information

File Size: 1407 KB

Print Length: 358 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press (October 2, 2013)

Publication Date: October 2, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00H3QU9IM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #125,359 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

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Church Leadership > Church Institutions & Organizations #16 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Rites & Ceremonies #41 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Ritual

Customer Reviews

What is worship? Is it simply about throwing a few songs together each time people come together? That will be a most superficial form of understanding worship. Worship is much more, and Ruth Duck shows the way with this brilliant "textbook for Christian worship." Without pinning readers down to any one way of doing worship, the author invites meaningful reflection on the diversity of worship, both individually and together as a congregation. With historical background, theological breadth, and practical ideas, Ruth Duck writes from a rich teaching background nourished by years of experiencing worship in a diverse environment. As a professor at a United Methodist seminary, this book is exemplary of the four-fold Wesleyan tradition of using Reason, Experience, backed by Tradition and Scripture. There are many reasons to like this book. Let me highlight a few. Firstly, it is ecumenical and brings together a wealth of knowledge about the different kinds of worship styles, liturgies, and traditions. This allows for greater understanding and interactions for people to share unity in diversity. Even if one may not agree with the manner in which the individual liturgies are conducted, the understanding provided will help one reflect and even improve one's own worship formats. For example, the chapter on "Diverse worship" reminds us about worship being both all about God as well as all about how people worship. There are some people who will insist dogmatically that worship must only be about God. Such a group may very well be so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good. The other extreme may treat worship as being all about how to spur people to worship. It may lead people to be so earthly minded that they lack heavenly emphasis.

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