

## **Re-Imagining Protestantism**

Sunday morning worship, Wittenberg april 2016

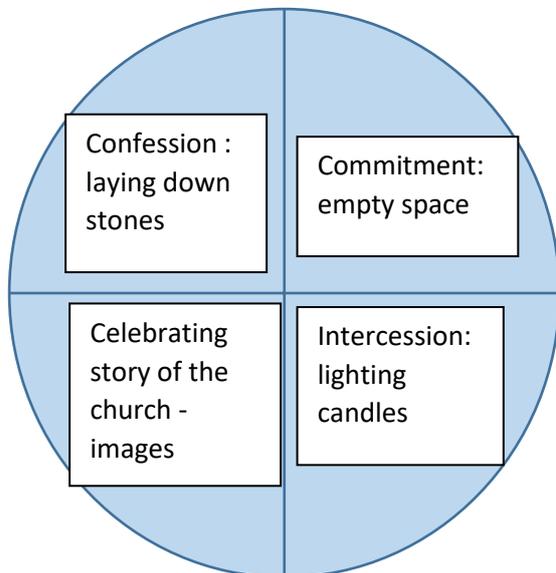
Rev. Wayne Hawkins

Four elements to morning worship:

- Celebrating the history of the church (images of saints and names of individuals)
- Confession (laying down stones)
- Intercession (lighting candles)
- Commitment (empty space)

### **Layout:**

Room should be set out with chairs in a circle. A large paschal candle in the middle of the circle with some the four quarters of the circle marked out (with ribbon or cloth laid on the floor or with colored tealight-candles). See below:



**Celebrating story of the church** – on the floor we place images or names on cards of saints from church and society who have helped shape the church e.g. Mary Magdalena, St Paul and St Peter, Claire of Assisi, Catherine of Sienna, Teresa Avila, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Martin Luther King, Billy Graham, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothea Sölle, and DT Niles etc.

In the liturgy for this moment people are encouraged to write and place on the floor the name of someone who has inspired and nurtured their faith e.g. Sunday school teacher, pastor etc.

Consequently this moment will include people and saints known and unknown

who are part of the story of the church.

**Confession** – a moment to recognise the burdens we carry as individuals, societies and churches symbolized by stones which we are invited to lay down in one of the quarters of the cross (some participants lay down a stone and say a few words what this stone symbolizes for them and for us all)

**Intercessions** – a moment for people to light a candle and bring a short prayer in a sentence (not a long prayer) and if desired in their own language, so we hear and respond to different languages and contexts.

**Commitment** – a moment to reflect and gather together insights from the week. It is proposed to identify four of the tweets (important and also urgent) and ask four people to say in two minutes (more we don't need because we discussed the tweets already in the conference) why that tweet is important and urgent and what they will do about it.

These four comments should be made from the quarter that celebrates our history.

Following this someone (standing in the celebrating history quarter) highlights how we are part of a continuing story. So that our fresh insights come out of the churches

pilgrimage throughout the years but that we are called to re-imagine the shape of church.

Moving into the empty space we make reference to the final quarter being empty as we reminder that we need to intentionally make space for re-imaginings to emerge. If we are not intention we will continue with 'business as usual' and so we need to make space and commit to listening for the missionary Spirit of God.

### **Order of Worship**

\*Mrs. Herzer plays the organ in the Castle Church (Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott)

\*Gathering together

- Lighting paschal candle and call to worship
- Hymn
- Opening prayer

\*Celebrating story of the church:

- Liturgy reflecting "great crowd of witnesses", Saints and people who have inspired/nurtured our faith
- Hymn "A safe stronghold our God is still" with the introduction :  
"Our metaphors like tent, temple, public square and also the mighty fortress in the famous hymn of Luther do not primarily refer to a place of cult but to a place of shelter and security; Like in Psalm 9:10 - the Lord shall be a fortress (misgav) for the crushed, a fortress (misgav) for times of distress..."

\*Confession:

- Liturgy of confession and laying down
- Laying down stones as symbols of burdens/cares/anxieties

Hymn (We listen to "Imagine" – John Lennon; text should be available in print with a short introduction referring to this song as a song of hope in the public square in times of terror)

\*Intercessions

- Lighting candles
- Lord's Prayer

\*Reflection: how do we continue or church-history:

\*Empty space

- Reflection
- Liturgy of commitment

Hymn

Blessing (text Iona)