



Q & A

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***Sermons That Sing***  
*Music and the Practice of Preaching*

August 17, 2021 | \$30, 200 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4933-8

**Noel A. Snyder** (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is program manager at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin University and an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

## Engaging Preaching Through Musical Theory

**What led to your interest in and now sharing about the role of music in preaching?**

**Noel A. Snyder:** Every preacher wants to deliver sermons that are faithful to God's Word and connect with their listeners. At the same time, many preachers are tired of trendy or gimmicky approaches; they are looking for something that will help them go deeper with their congregations. Learning more about music—even for preachers who are not musicians—is a powerful way for preachers to grow in faithfulness and impact. This book seeks to demonstrate how the embodiment of musical instincts can provide a deeply formative framework for preachers who are longing to make a lasting difference in the lives of their people.

**What is your main thesis in *Sermons That Sing*?**

**Snyder:** Musicality is a powerful yet underappreciated aspect of the overall aesthetic, rhetorical, and theological import of preaching. This book develops a sustained conversation between these two arts—preaching and music—in order to more clearly demonstrate the connections between them and the formative potential of deploying musical instincts in the practice of preaching. My methodology is distinct, compared to other books that have suggested a musical approach to preaching, in that it gives music as music a more significant voice in the conversation and draws on both literal and metaphorical insights regarding the connection between these two.

**What do you hope your book contributes to the study of homiletics and worship?**

**Snyder:**

- There have been many excellent books published on theology and the arts in recent decades. This book demonstrates the significance of the theology and music conversation—especially as it is seen in Jeremy Begbie's theology through music project—for the practice of preaching.
- "Preaching and the arts" is a burgeoning subset of homiletics that deserves careful scholarly attention. This book seeks to contribute to the field of homiletics by demonstrating a theologically rich and theoretically satisfying approach to preaching and music.
- This book gives a theological and theoretical framework for scholars who study preaching, worship, and congregational song to use in teaching students and in furthering their own research.

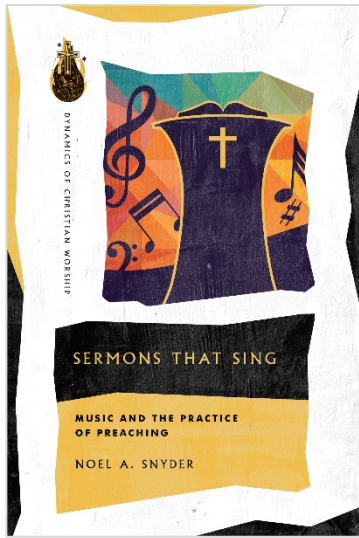


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## DETAILS



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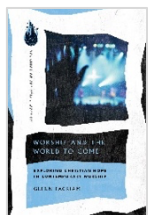
*“Designing and leading Christian worship today is both exciting and challenging. It calls for multidimensional leadership. What could be more needed than a wide-ranging resource that joins theological reflection with effective practice for leaders in the pursuit of faithful worship? The Dynamics of Christian Worship series provides just such an invaluable, artful blend.”*

**Constance M. Cherry**, professor of worship and pastoral ministry, Indiana Wesleyan University

## “An invaluable, artful blend” of theology and worship in the Dynamics of Christian Worship series.

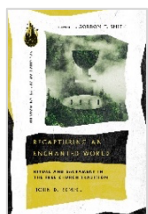
Worship of the triune God stands at the heart of the Christian life, so understanding the many dynamics of Christian worship—including prayer, reading the Bible, preaching, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, music, visual art, architecture, and more—is both a perennial and crucial issue for the church. With that in mind, the Dynamics of Christian Worship (DCW) series seeks to enable Christians to grow in their understanding of the many aspects of Christian worship.

In 2020 the Dynamics of Christian Worship series was launched with the publication of *Recapturing an Enchanted World*. Enabling Christians to grow in their understanding of the many aspects of Christian worship, this series harvests the fruits of biblical, theological, historical, practical, and liturgical scholarship.



***Worship and the World to Come: Exploring Christian Hope in Contemporary Worship*** by Glenn Packiam  
July 28, 2020 | \$35, 216 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4931-4

How is our Christian hope both expressed and experienced in contemporary worship? In this Dynamics of Christian Worship volume, pastor, theologian, and songwriter Glenn Packiam explores what Christians sing about when they sing about hope and what kind of hope they experience when they worship together.



***Recapturing an Enchanted World: Ritual and Sacrament in the Free Church Tradition*** by John D. Rempel  
January 28, 2020 | \$30, 240 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4929-1

While the Free Churches rightly sought to cleanse the church of the abuses of sacramentalism, in that process they also set aside some of the church’s historic practices and theology. In response to this liturgically thin space, Mennonite theologian and minister John D. Rempel considers the role of the sacraments and ritual within the Free Church tradition, helping us perceive the sacramental nature of our faith and worship.

Forthcoming titles include:

- *Christ Our Song: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs in the History of Worship from the Early Church to Watts*, by Esther R. Crookshank



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