



## IONA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

**Theology of the Church and Sacraments**  
With attention to Worship and Ministry

**Third Year**  
**December 5, 2020**  
**The Rt. Rev. Kathryn “Kai” Ryan**

### Study Guide

**Required Reading** (to be completed in advance of class):

Owen C. Thomas and Ellen K. Wondra, Introduction to Theology  
 Chapter 17 Church – pp. 257-274  
 Chapter 18 Sacraments – pp. 275-290  
 Chapter 19 Worship – pp. 291-300  
 Chapter 20 Ministry - pp. 301-311

Dackson, Wendy, "Anglicanism and Social Theology," Anglican Theological Review 94:4 (2017) [PDF provided]

**Supplemental resources:**

The Outline of the Faith, BCP, 854-861 (Church, Ministry, Prayer and Worship, Sacraments, Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Other Sacramental Rites)

Articles of Religion, BCP, 871-875

The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral, 1886, 1888, BCP, 876-878

**While reading chapter 17, consider the following questions:**

1. Thomas and Wondra assert that the basis of the disciplines of practical theology (the practice of the church and its members) “is the interpretation of the nature and purpose of the church”. On what basis do they make this assertion?
2. Choose three different New Testament images for the church, as articulated by Thomas and Wondra (pp. 258ff). Summarize each in one or two phrases and note the scriptural source of the image. What distinguishes them from each other? Which resonates with your experience of the church? Which seems the least helpful in our day?

3. Consider the description of the Church in the Outline of the Faith. How might you use the material from Chapter 17, particularly the sections on Tradition and Contemporary Issues and Reconstruction, to elaborate on the answers in the catechism?

**For reflection: What is a question of practical ministry with which your congregation has wrestled for which clarity about the nature and purpose of the Church could offer direction? How would an understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church offer a path to resolution?**

**While reading chapter 18, consider the following questions:**

1. How does the Church know when a sacrament is both valid and efficacious? What do we mean by “efficacious” sacraments?
2. (From Thomas and Wondra, 290) What is the theological relation between the word (Bible and preaching) and sacrament?
3. Thomas and Wondra state: “the modern liturgical understanding of the Eucharist sees the real presence of Christ mediated through the whole liturgical action of offertory, consecration, fraction, and communion, and focused in but not limited to the elements and their reception.” (287) Reflect on how this understanding impacts the questions about online worship and virtual communion that have arisen during the pandemic.

**For Reflection: Some Episcopalians are in the habit of naming anything that feels like a reminder of God’s grace “sacramental”. What distinguishes the sacraments from these other conveyors of grace? How might you help children or youth understand the difference?**

**While reading chapter 19, consider the following questions:**

1. What are the most important foundations for Christian worship found in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament? Why are these important as a basis of the ongoing worship life of the Church?
2. Beyond the sacraments, how do Thomas and Wondra present the purpose of Christian worship?
3. The Church has sometimes argued that the highest purpose of Christian life is the vision of God. At other times, that the highest purpose is the love of neighbor. Why are these sometimes seen in conflict?
4. Are you convinced by the argument that we have worship because the “city in which there is no city is the heavenly city, the reign of God to which we look forward in hope”? (298) Why or why not?

**For Reflection: During the pandemic, holding the call to worship in balance with the call to love our neighbor has been complicated. Why might the lay members of our congregations experience clergy attempts to turn their gaze outward to their neighbors and the needs of the world as stressful during this time? How should the clergy respond?**

**While reading chapter 20, consider the following questions:**

1. Name three New Testament texts or themes helpful for understanding Christian ministry today.
2. Explain the arguments Thomas and Wondra present on whether the three orders of ministry (Bishops, Priests, Deacons) are of the essence (essential for) or for the good of the Church (helpful, but not absolutely necessary). Identify theologians who made the case for each argument.
3. What is the theological basis for the ministry of the laity? Ordained ministry?

**For Reflection: How do you think about the relationship between the ministry of laity and clergy in the parish? Are the distinctions about roles, authority, spiritual**

**gifts? How does your thinking about the sacraments shape your understanding of these distinctions?**

**Practical application of theory** (project to be completed by class time):

1. Read the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (found in the BCP). Prepare a two-page outline for an adult formation class on the nature and purpose of the Church that includes exploration of the sacraments and ministry, using the Quadrilateral, the Outline of the Faith, and key insights from the Thomas/Wondra and Dackson readings.

**OR**

2. Dackson asserts there are three key directions for theology in relation to society: Theology of society, for society, and in society. Of the third, she writes: “Finally, the third concern of social theology involves a theology of church in society: what is the place of the church in terms of influencing a culture that cannot be assumed to share its ideals?” (p. 616-617)

Imagine you have gathered a group in your congregation to discuss the missional call of the Church with a hope toward a new strategy for outreach. A member of the group asks a question that sounds like Dackson’s question above. Write a brief (150 words or less) answer to the question. What resources and points, taken from this sessions readings, might you call upon to elaborate on or invite deeper reflection on your answer? List these in bullet points (8-10) with a sentence about what each would add to your answer.

**Additional Resources:** (For later reading or exploration)

Boff, Leonardo. *Sacraments of Life: Life of the Sacraments*. Washington, DC: Pastoral Press, 1987. Print.

Brown, Raymond Edward. *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*. Makati, Metro Manila: St. Pauls, 1994.

Croft, Steven J. L., Ian Mobsby, and Stephanie Spellers. *Ancient Faith, Future Mission: Fresh Expressions in the Sacramental Traditions*. New York: Seabury Books, 2010

Doyle, C. Andrew. Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future. 2015

Izuzquiza, Daniel. Rooted in Jesus Christ: Toward a Radical Ecclesiology. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 2009.

Knox, John. The Church and the Reality of Christ. Ann Arbor, Mich: University Microfilms, 1972.

Law; Eric H Fand Stephanie Spellers, The Episcopal Way, New York, NY: Morehouse Publishing, 2014.

Macquarrie, John, A Guide to the Sacraments, New York, NY: Continuum Publishing, 1997.

Ramsey, Michael. The Gospel and the Catholic Church. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers, 2009. (1st published 1936)

Russell, Letty M. Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretation of the Church. Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993

The Doctrine Commission of the Church of England, The Mystery of Salvation. London: Church House Publishing, 1995.

Podcasts:

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, The Book of Common Prayer, History and Contents, 5 Episodes: <https://soundcloud.com/smecatx/sets/the-book-of-common-prayer-lent>

Lit, a podcast by Brin Bon and Justin Yawn on the Book of Common Prayer: <https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/lit-brin-bon-and-justin-yawn-bzWwm-O3Dce/>