

**Course Syllabus**  
**TRP2311 – Proclaiming the Kingdom: Orthodox Homiletics and Liturgical Celebration**  
**Trinity College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**September to December 2020 (Fall)**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Rev Fr Geoffrey Ready  
Office Location: Larkin Building, Office 325  
Telephone: (647) 567-8955  
Email: [geoffrey.ready@utoronto.ca](mailto:geoffrey.ready@utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: By appointment

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: TRP2311  
Course Name: Proclaiming the Kingdom: Orthodox Homiletics and Liturgical Celebration  
Course Location: Online only  
Course Week Begins: Every Tuesday (starting 15 September)  
Live Sessions (*Optional*): 15 September, 6 **OR** 13 October, 3 November, 8 December (7pm Eastern time)  
Prerequisites: None

***Course Description***

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This course presents both effective preaching and liturgical celebration as key aspects of the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God.

The course will ground students in the theology of sacramental preaching and help them to develop dynamic oral communication skills. Students will be given the opportunity to hone their sermon preparation and preaching skills in a supportive environment, as well as offering a practice-oriented seminar in which all the elements required for the proper and kerygmatic celebration of Orthodox divine services will be discussed and put into pastoral practice.

This course would be suitable not only for those presiding, serving, singing, and preaching at liturgy, but also teachers, podcasters, writers, and all others seeking to communicate and proclaim the Word of God. During the course, students may opt to write and produce podcasts in place of sermons.

***Expanded Course Description***

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This course presents both effective preaching and liturgical celebration as key aspects of the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God.

The course will ground students in the theology of sacramental preaching and help them to develop dynamic oral communication skills. Students will be given the opportunity to hone their sermon preparation and preaching skills in a supportive environment. Learning to read Biblical texts closely,

exegete and interpret passages with the aim of proclaiming the gospel, and preach effectively and sacramentally to the listening liturgical assembly, students will deliver at least three homilies during the course and receive constructive feedback to improve their skills.

The course will also encompass a practice-oriented liturgics seminar that complements and reinforces the material taught in the three liturgical theology courses (Orthodox Eucharistic Liturgies and Liturgical Theology, Sanctification of Life: Orthodox Holy Mysteries, and Sanctification of Time: Orthodox Liturgy of the Hours and Liturgical Year). This seminar will treat the applied and practical side of liturgy, including rubrics and prescribed rituals and prayers for the sacraments and feasts of the church year, but with a focus through discussion and hands-on practice on making effective use of symbols, movement, communication, light, space, time, music, art and other liturgical elements in order to ensure Orthodox divine services fulfil their proper kerygmatic function.

In the practical development of excellent preaching and liturgical celebration skills, we will explore the course's overarching theme that liturgy calls us, in the words of Aidan Kavanagh, "to do the world as the world was meant to be done" – that in the prophetic proclamation of God's Word and beautiful celebration of liturgy we truly constitute and manifest the coming Kingdom, consecrating our life and the whole world to the glory of the Triune God.

This course would be suitable not only for those presiding, serving, singing, and preaching at liturgy, but also teachers, podcasters, writers, and all others seeking to communicate and proclaim the Word of God. During the course, students may opt to write and produce podcasts in place of sermons.

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Texts**

Students are encouraged to acquire the following book which will be read in its entirety:

- O.C. Edwards, *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach* (Pueblo Publishing)

All required class readings will be provided through the Quercus portal.

By the end of the course, students will need to have read one of the following two books, which they may wish to purchase for themselves:

- David Fagerberg, *Consecrating the World: On Mundane Liturgical Theology* (Angelico Press)
- OR
- James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Brazos Press)

### **Course Website**

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>.

## Course Learning Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Identify and describe the principles of effective sacramental preaching in the Orthodox tradition and use them to critique sermons (including their own)
- Read Biblical lections closely, exegete and interpret them for proclamation, and prepare and deliver sermons to a liturgical assembly
- Recognise and explain the principles of effective liturgical celebration and use them to critique liturgical services, style and elements (including their own services and presiding)
- Defend and assess both preaching and liturgical celebration as key aspects of the proclamation and manifestation of the kingdom of God

## Programme Outcomes

Course Outcomes: Knowledge of the Area of Concentration	Course Elements	Programme Outcomes
<i>Students successfully completing this course will be able to:</i>	<i>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</i>	<i>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Basic Degree Learning Outcomes</i>
Identify and describe the principles of effective sacramental preaching in the Orthodox tradition and use them to critique sermons (including their own)	Lectures / seminar discussions Sermon practice Oral final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry
Read Biblical lections closely, exegete and interpret them for proclamation, and prepare and deliver sermons to a liturgical assembly	Lectures / seminar discussions Sermon practice	Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Recognise and explain the principles of effective liturgical celebration and use them to critique liturgical services, style and elements (including their own services and presiding)	Lectures / seminar discussions Liturgical reflection papers Oral final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Defend and assess both preaching and liturgical celebration as key aspects of the proclamation and manifestation of the kingdom of God	Lectures / seminar discussions Oral final exam	Cultural context Capacity for ministry

## Evaluation

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### Requirements

- **Class participation (20%):** attending class regularly (being present for each of four live sessions, in weeks 1, 3/4, 7 and 12, and for weekly activities in the class portal), keeping up with readings and actively participating in at least eight different weekly online class discussions

*Note that students who are unable to participate in the live sessions will be given an opportunity to make up their participation in other ways.*

- **Liturgical reflection papers (20%):** **due 8 December**, students will write two 400-500 word reflective essays assessing aspects of liturgical celebration according to course learning (eg analysing and evaluating worship experiences, or reflecting on their own development of practical liturgical techniques)
- **Sermons or podcasts (40%):** students will prepare and deliver two recorded 10-minute sermons (or podcasts) and evaluate eight of their peers' sermons (or podcasts)

Mark breakdown:	2 sermon/podcast outlines – 10	<b>due 3 November</b>
	2 recorded sermons/podcasts – 20	<b>due 24 November</b>
	8 peer evaluations – 10	<b>due 8 December</b>

- **Oral final exam (20%):** in a scheduled (online) oral exam **during the week of 15-18 December**, students will respond to questions on the course themes, particularly as reflected through the exposition of these themes in their choice of one of the two overall course texts (Fagerberg, *Consecrating the World: On Mundane Liturgical Theology* and Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*)

## Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Other qualities expected of students
<b>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.</b>				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and Creative	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base
<b>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</b>				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature
B	73-76	3.0	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late work.** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. A 2% per day penalty applies (up to a maximum of 20%) for late work. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course

grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

***Anti-harassment policy.*** As we all adjust to online classes and lectures, and increasingly participate in virtual learning environments, students are reminded of the expectation that we all demonstrate respect for one another. As outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, the University of Toronto does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities especially when based on grounds protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code. The University of Toronto recognizes its commitment to human rights, equity and inclusion and acknowledges the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on various parts of our community. COVID-19 is not isolated to people of any particular ethnic origin, place of origin or race. Equity, diversity and respect must remain integral as we continue to transition during these challenging times. The institution will monitor and address discriminatory comments or behaviour including on U of T's online platforms and classrooms.

In accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, no person shall engage in a course of vexatious conduct that is directed at one or more specific individuals, and that is based on the race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age marital status, family status or disability. This includes:

- Racial slurs or “jokes”
- Insults due to racial identity
- Online posts of cartoons or pictures, in a workplace or school that degrade persons of a particular racial group
- Name-calling due to race, colour, citizenship, place of origin, ancestry, ethnic background or creed
- Pseudonyms or handles that are inappropriate about ancestry, colour, citizenship, ethnicity, place of origin, race, or religion.

The University of Toronto's Equity Offices remain available to students to provide support on equity issues that arise as a result of COVID-19. Students are encouraged to support one another and the University's commitment to human rights and our values of diversity, inclusion, and respect in managing any inappropriate comments or disruptive behaviours. If you experience or witness inappropriate comments or behaviours in your classes, you are encouraged to contact your instructor. If you can, take and share a screenshot of the inappropriate content with your instructor so they can follow-up with you and address the conduct.

## Course Schedule

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### Week 1 (15 to 21 September) – Introduction to the Course and ‘Proclaiming the Kingdom’

#### LIVE SESSION 1 – Tuesday 15 September, 7pm to 8pm (EDT)

- Introductions
- Course overview, syllabus, reading list, expectations
- Presentation of the overall course theme ‘Proclaiming the Kingdom’ and the two books, Fagerberg, *Consecrating the World*, and Smith, *You Are What You Love*, from which students will choose one to focus on and prepare for the final oral exam

#### Topics

- The challenge of preaching/proclaiming the kingdom
- A microcosm of ministry
- Preaching/proclaiming the kingdom for transformation
- The word of God

#### Short Lecture: Why preach / proclaim the kingdom?

#### Readings for Class Discussion

- Edwards, “Towards a Definition [of a Sermon],” in *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach*, pp1-16

### Week 2 (22 to 28 September) – Theology of Christian Communication

#### Topics

- Preaching of Jesus and the apostles
- Classical homiletic tradition in the church fathers
- Christian rhetoric and communication

#### Short Lecture: ‘Good words in treating of the Word’ – Elements of Christian rhetoric

#### Readings for Class Discussion

- Jaroslav Pelikan, “The Rhetoric of the Sermon on the Mount,” in *Divine Rhetoric: The Sermon on the Mount as Message and as Model in Augustine, Chrysostom and Luther*, pp97-155  
NB: skim the entire reading, but focus your reading on one section (ethos, pathos, logos)
- Sermons in the Book of Acts: Acts 2.14-42, Acts 3.11-26, Acts 13.13-43, Acts 17.16-34



### **Week 3 (29 September to 5 October) – Theology of Sacramental Proclamation**

#### **Topics**

- Not word vs sacrament, but word *as* sacrament
- Principles of sacramental and christological exegesis

**Short Lecture: Rediscovering the sacramentality of the word through the Annunciation**

#### **Readings for Class Discussion**

- Edwards, “Interpreting the Gospel,” in *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach*, pp17-44
- Selection of patristic homilies

### **Week 4 (6 to 12 October) – Effective Methods of Proclaiming the Kingdom in Word I**

#### **LIVE SESSION 2A [podcasting option] – Tuesday 6 October, 7pm to 8pm (EDT)**

- Technical aspects of writing and producing podcasts to proclaim the kingdom (including using technology to record podcasts for this course)  
NB: students choose either this week’s live session or next week’s

#### **Topics**

- Good contemporary principles of and strategies for sacramental preaching
- Understanding the audience
- Listening, remembering, learning through reflection, preaching for learning

**Short Lecture: Proclaiming as a learning event**

#### **Readings for Class Discussion**

- Edwards, “Applying it to the Congregation,” and “Developing the Idea,” in *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach*, pp45-71
- Selection of patristic and contemporary homilies (as well as other contemporary forms of proclamation, eg podcasts)

### **Week 5 (13 to 19 October) – Effective Methods of Proclaiming the Kingdom in Word II**

#### **LIVE SESSION 2B [preaching option] – Tuesday 13 October, 7pm to 8pm (EDT)**

- Technical aspects of writing and delivering sermons to proclaim the kingdom (including using technology to record sermons for this course)  
NB: students choose either this week’s live session or last week’s

#### **Topics**

- Elements and varieties of structure
- Visual images, language to listen to
- Getting started
- Arriving at a conclusion
- How to prepare an outline (students will create outlines for their two sermons or podcasts over the reading week)

**Short Lecture: Step-by-step guide for sermon (or podcast) preparation**

**Readings for Class Discussion**

- Edwards, "Constructing the Homily," in *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach*, pp72-112
- Selection of patristic and contemporary homilies (as well as other contemporary forms of proclamation, eg podcasts)

**Week 6 (20 October to 2 November) – Effective Methods of Proclaiming the Kingdom in Word III**

**Topics**

- Delivering the homily
- Preaching / speaking without notes
- Posture, breathing, diction projection

**Short Lecture: Involving the congregation / audience**

**Readings for Class Discussion**

- Edwards, "Delivering the Homily," in *Elements of Homiletic: Method for Preparing to Preach*, pp113-20
- Excerpts from Ray Lonergan, *A Well-Trained Tongue* (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications)
- Sergius Halvorsen, "Notes for Readers"

**READING WEEK: 26 to 30 October**

**Week 7 (3 to 9 November) – Principles of Authentic, Proper and Effective Christian Worship**

**Podcast or Sermon Outlines Due 3 November at 12noon**

**LIVE SESSION 3 – Tuesday 3 November, 7pm to 8pm (EST)**

- Course check-in
- What is the purpose of Christian worship?
- Reflecting on the basis of readings (so far) in Fagerberg and Smith  
NB: students are expected to have started their choice of book (at least first two chapters)

**Topics**

- Purpose of Christian worship
- Principles of liturgical celebration

**Short Lecture: Elementary rules of liturgical usage and general 'laws' of liturgy**

**Readings for Class Discussion**

- Kavanagh, "Principles for Putting Liturgy Together," in *Elements of Rite: A Handbook of Liturgical Style*, pp47-60

## **Week 8 (10 to 16 November) – Full Participation in Liturgy**

### **Topics**

- Liturgy intended as transformative *theologia prima*
- *Homo capax Dei* – the need for liturgical capacitation and proficiency
- Liturgy as enacted social drama
- Liturgy as narrative signification, and the formative power of enacted narrative
- Deep transformation through embodied participation
- Attaining *theologia prima* through re-cognition and re-narration
- Strengthening and evaluating liturgical participation and Christian formation

### **Short Lecture: Reflection on ‘full, conscious, and active participation’ in liturgy**

#### **Readings for Class Discussion**

- Geoffrey Ready, “Towards a Renewed Mystagogy of Orthodox Christian Worship”

## **Week 9 (17 to 23 November) – Church Music and Singing**

### **Topics**

- History and purpose of church singing
- Forms of hymnography and church singing
- Practical considerations for choral and sung liturgy
- Corporate silence in liturgical life

### **Short Lecture: Music in Orthodox church life**

#### **Readings for Class Discussion**

- David Drillock, “Liturgical Song in the Worship of the Church”
- Mark Bailey, “Toward a Living Tradition of Liturgical Music in Orthodox America”

## **Week 10 (24 to 30 November) – Liturgical Arts and Aesthetics (Vessels, Appointments, Furnishings and Vestments)**

### **Sermons or podcasts due 24 November at 12noon**

### **Topics**

- Overview of the liturgical arts
- Beauty in worship

### **Short Lecture: The theological foundation of art and beauty**

#### **Readings for Class Discussion**

- Andrew Gould, “An Icon of the Kingdom of God: Integrated Expression of all the Liturgical Arts”
- Krista West, “General Beautification Recommendations for Orthodox Christian Churches”

## **Week 11 (1 to 7 December) – Effective Use of Liturgical Space, Time and Movement**

### ***Topics***

- Theology of space and movement
- Effect of liturgical space on ministry

***Short Lecture: Six models of church liturgy and space, and six forms of ministry***

### ***Readings for Class Discussion***

- Frederick West, “The Conquest of Space: Sacred Space at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois”
- John Chryssavgis, “A Theological Perspective on Movement”
- Robert Arida, “A Meditation on Sacred Space”

## **Week 12 (8 December) – Putting It All Together: Liturgy as the Experience of the Kingdom of God, *Theologia Prima*, and the Consecration of the World**

**Liturgical reflection papers, and peer evaluations of sermons or podcasts, due 8 December at 12noon**

### **LIVE SESSION 4 – Tuesday 8 December, 7pm to 8.30pm (EST)**

- Review of main course themes through Fagerberg, *Consecrating the World: On Mundane Liturgical Theology* and Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*  
NB: students are expected to have completed reading their choice of book
- Preparation for the final oral exam

**The final oral exam will be scheduled by appointment on 15 to 18 December.**

**Please note that this syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the regulations in the TST *Basic Degree Handbook*.**