

Experiencing God:
Worship that
engages all the ages.

- For the Hebrew people, their purpose was to worship God. In their worship, they engaged all the senses.
- Christine Roy Yoder, associate professor of Old Testament language, literature, and exegesis, Columbia Theological Seminary

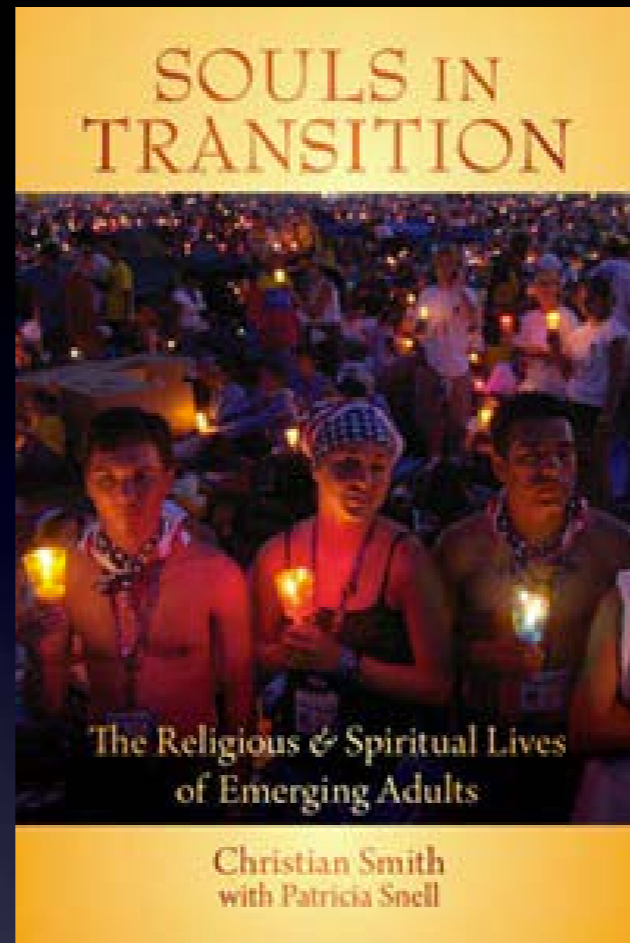
- The reason worship is so important in the faith community is that one participates his or her way into the faith community. One is shaped by the liturgy in which one participates. One is shaped without necessarily knowing it and without necessarily being able to explain what is happening. No other aspect of the life of the congregation can provide this experience of being formed into the community of faith.
- Carolyn Hardin Engelhard, Ministry Resource Center Director - Yale Divinity School.

- The nature of the Church for the 21st century must be EPIC.
- **E**xperiential, **P**articipatory, **I**mage-driven, **C**ommunal
- Leonard Sweet writing in *Post-Modern Pilgrims*

- If our children are to have faith, they must worship with us. Not only is the content of our faith communicated but also the feelings, subtle nuances, and transcendent meanings are learned through participation.
- John Westerhoff writing in *Will Our Children Have Faith?*

- Faith is nurtured through both nearness and directness. Nearness happens when we consistently experience persons being faithful and expressing their faith. Directness happens when faith are presently directly to us in an appealing, fair, honest, and open way.
- Stephen Jones writing in *Faithshaping*.

- In setting an order of worship on the Lord's Day, the pastor with the concurrence of the session shall provide opportunity for people from youngest to oldest to participate in a worthy offering of praise to God and for them to hear and to respond to God's Word.
- W-3.3201 Directory for Worship - Book of Order - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



- Christian Smith. *Souls in Transition. The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults in America.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

1. Committed Traditionalists. “Deeply committed”
15%
2. Selective Adherents. “Important but...” 30%
3. Spiritually Open. “Spiritual just not religious”
15%
4. Religiously Indifferent. “Just doesn’t matter.”
25%
5. Religiously Disconnected. “Don’t know.” 5 %
6. Irreligious. “Makes no sense.” 10%

High parental religious service & attendance & importance of faith

High teen importance of faith

Teen had many personal religious experiences

Teen had many adults to turn to for support and help

Teen frequently prayed and read the Bible

Teen had fewer serious doubts about religious beliefs

Affirmations...

- We learn to worship by worshipping. Modeling by important adults is crucial to our learning.
- Worship must also be learned through intentional education at home and at church.
- We have shifted from a culture of the page to a culture of the screen.

Affirmations...

- Belonging is essential to community. Belonging happens when persons are welcomed, recognized, and valued.
- Musically, we are more eclectic than ever. And we are more used to choosing what we listen to and creating our own music.
- Experience, not audition, is the emerging primary epistemology for the 21st century.