

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009: Greg Scheer, Music Associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, will discuss and demonstrate how Psalm-songs through the ages can be creatively adapted to church use today. He will lead the audience in singing a sampling of these as well as his own setting of Psalm 78, "People of the Lord," which recently won the Calvin 09 international hymn contest.

## Is there still a place for Psalm-singing in worship?

Greg Scheer

SPOKEN: no music

Unison, Responsive and Dramatic readings

CHANT: intoned speech, often using "Psalm Tones"

Gregorian

Anglican

Gelineau/Grail

THROUGH-COMPOSED: performance pieces that take their text and form from the Psalm

*Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, Franck's "Psalm 100," etc*

RESPONSORIAL: leader intones or speaks and the people respond by singing a short refrain

In Psalms themselves

Early Church

Post-Vatican II (Gelineau, Guimont)

METRICAL: text is set to poetic meter with as little change to the original Psalm as possible

Genevan Psalter (All People That on Earth Do Dwell-Psalm 100)

Sternhold and Hopkins; Tate and Brady (As Pants the Hart-Psalm 42)

Scottish Psalter (The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want-Psalm 23; I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes-121)

PARAPHRASE: the meaning of the whole Psalm is preserved, but not necessarily the entire text

Martin Luther (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God-Psalm 46; Out of the Depths-Psalm 130)

Isaac Watts (Jesus Shall Reign- Psalm 72; My Shepherd Will Supply My Need- Psalm 23; O God, Our Help in Ages Past- Psalm 90; From All that Dwell Below the Skies-Psalm 117; Joy to the World!-Psalm 98)

Charles Wesley (Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above-Psalm 150; O for a Heart to Praise My God-Psalm 51)

Post-Vatican II (Haugen, Haas, *et al*)

John Bell

EXTRACT: short sections or particular images are extracted from the Psalm

Scripture Songs (As the Deer)

Praise and Worship (Better Is One Day)

Taizé

HYBRID: combination of forms

*Watch/sing:*

Scheer's People of the Lord  
(Psalm 78)

*Hear:*

Mandatum Novum Do Vobis  
(Psalm 133)

*Hear:*

Michael Guimont's "I Shall Live  
in the House of the Lord (Psalm  
23)

*Sing:*

Psalter Hymnal 42 – As a Deer  
in Want of Water (Psalm 42)  
and  
Diephouse/Scheer's Thanks Be  
to God Our Savior (Psalm 107)

*Sing:*

Scheer's As the Deer (Psalm  
42/43)

*Sing:*

Nystrom's As the Deer (Psalm  
42)

*Sing:*

Scheer's Rest in the Lord  
(Psalm 127)  
and  
Scheer's Hear My Words, O  
Lord (Psalm 5)