

CD 701 Worship Arts and Disciplines

Professor Amy Davis Abdullah

Worship Practicum Evaluation

By David A. Ostrander

Group 2

It was a joy and privilege to work with Group 2 for the worship practicum. Julie really got the ball rolling by getting everyone together. Erica did a great job leading Zoom calls, and Raymond really came to the rescue when we needed him most to put the production together. It was a great honor to do the preaching section of our service. If I had one regret, I wish I had waited till the next day and practiced the sermon more or better yet started working on it earlier.

The idea to preach about Jesus praying in the garden and the Maundy Thursday service came when we first met but the sermon was worked on slowly and the final thoughts were put together toward the end. This seems to be something I need to work on. This was a great learning experience. Everyone basically worked on their own and contributed their own ideas. But you knew that God was in it when we all came together, and it just seemed to flow.

There were some ideas that we came up with together. But it was one or more members that really had the burden to see it happen. For instance, I didn't do a foot washing video, but the others did and it turned into an important part of our presentation. I also didn't do communion. Julie really had the burden for it and it was Isaac's idea to use the song, New Wine. MJ as we call him came down with Covid. He didn't know what he had at first, but it

turned out to be Covid. He could have dropped out, not done the reading parts including the Scripture reading from Luke 22:34-44. Instead, he kept up with us and has a great voice for reading and presenting.

As for my role in preaching the sermon which turned into more of a teaching, I was amazed at how little I knew about Jesus's prayer in the garden before He was arrested. My study led me to all four gospels to see what they said, and I soon realized that it was absent from John. But then I asked why? I started to study the chapters in John that led up to the arrest and read a commentary that said John 14 through 17 took place after the last supper, but before Jesus went to the garden to pray. I never realized that John had devoted so much time to what Jesus taught them before His prayer in the garden, that led to his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion, and of course the resurrection. I would make that clearer the next time I teach on the subject. And I do think it's a sermon worth hearing again.

It then amazed me that Luke only mentions the disciples falling asleep before Jesus' arrest, and never mentions Peter, James, and John by name. While Mathew and Mark have them falling asleep three times and being awakened by Jesus. John and Luke obviously knew the story of how the disciples fell asleep three times but decided to concentrate on Jesus! I left out that they had the benefit of time. Luke was written later than Matthew or Mark and people already knew how Peter, James, and John, not to mention all the disciples had fallen asleep on the job! The practicum was very valuable in that it taught me how to work with other people and gave me a chance to do what I feel God has called me to, preach the gospel.