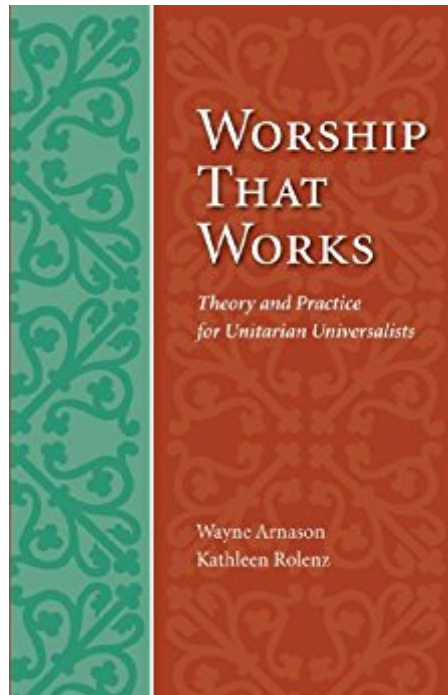


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# Worship That Works: Theory And Practice For Unitarian Universalists



## Synopsis

Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz, co-ministers at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church near Cleveland, Ohio, embarked on an eighteen-month sabbatical road trip in search of the cutting edge of innovation in worship culture. They attended services and interviewed worship leaders at thirty congregations of diverse sizes and traditions. This book--the result of their research--is a challenge to all Unitarian Universalists who care about the services in which they participate. A guidebook for revitalizing our worship life, *Worship that Works* provides practical, specific advice to improve the key elements of the service and increase the spiritual resonance of worship through symbols, music, cultural sensitivity, inclusion and more. Includes a critique of Unitarian Universalist worship as a central spiritual practice and offers tips gleaned from the authors' visits to thirty transformative worship services from a variety of religious traditions, four of which are described in detail.

Praise for *Worship that Works*: "Arnason and Rolenz reveal liberal worship as central, formative, exemplary, beautiful and expressive of our every desire for justice and right relation. They root their observations in a high vision, but for the benefit of all, they move from vision to practice. This might prove to be a turning point in how Unitarian Universalists understand and practice worship." âMark Belletini, senior minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio

"The authors clearly distill the current wisdom on incorporating word, music and ritual from diverse cultures in a respectful and non-oppressive manner." âElizabeth Norton, president, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book about transformative worship transformed me. In clear, well-written essays, the authors take the reader through all the hot spots of worship. The key, in their view, is intention, making sure that attention is paid to how each segment of worship, and the whole of it, come across to the people in the pews, newcomers and old timers alike. I highlighted many wise passages in it, and expect to refer back to it as a lay leader until it is worn out.

This is a great book for anyone trying to understand how to create vital, engaging worship. The authors lead readers through consideration of the various elements of traditional worship, encouraging careful thought about why it happens that way and whether there are ways to change it and deepen the experience for everyone. Accessible and thought-provoking, it's a great read for anyone seeking a wider understanding of worship practice.

Worship That Works by Arnason and Rolenz is an excellent book that presents the necessary elements for making the worship experience "come alive." After reading this book my wife and I were fascinated by the chapter highlighting All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington DC so we decided to visit since it was not far from where we lived. We were "blown away" by the experience and eventually decided to move closer and are now members. I highly recommend this book for any church community that decides they need "to fine tune" their worship to become the hub of the wheel of life of the church. It really does work!

Highly recommend this book for worship associates and worship teams. Accessible for lay people and provides concrete helpful information that deepens the analysis and praxis of lay-clergy collaborative worship.

Clearly written, this book will be of interest to any church group hoping to change in order to attract younger persons. Incidentally, many Unitarians, including me, do not follow christian dogma, and therefore do not consider their fellowship to be a church group.

The authors give great input into how worship services can be improved. They encourage imagination, seeing what other congregations do, and being attentive to the real needs of the congregation. Great input.

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