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978-0-521-53557-1 - *Worship as Meaning: A Liturgical Theology for Late Modernity*

Graham Hughes

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Worship as Meaning

How, in this Christian age of belief, can we draw sense from the ritual acts of Christians assembled in worship? Convinced that people shape their meanings from the meanings available to them, Graham Hughes inquires into liturgical constructions of meaning within the larger cultural context of late twentieth-century meaning theory. Major theories of meaning are examined in terms of their contribution or hindrance to this meaning-making: analytic philosophy, phenomenology, structuralism and deconstruction. Drawing particularly upon the work of Charles Peirce, Hughes turns to semiotic theory to analyse the construction, transmission and apprehension of meaning within an actual worship service. Finally the book analyses the ways in which various worshipping styles of western Christianity undertake this meaning-making. Taking account of late modern values and precepts, this groundbreaking book will appeal to teachers and students of theology, to clergy, and to thoughtful lay Christians.

GRAHAM HUGHES is Lecturer Emeritus in Liturgical Studies at United Theological College, Sydney and Academic Associate at the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. He is the author of *The Place of Prayer* (1998), *Beyond our Dreaming* (1996), *Leading in Prayer* (1992) and *Hebrews and Hermeneutics* (1981).

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK

40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2003

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typefaces Lexicon No. 2 9/13 pt. and Lexicon No. 1 *System* L^AT_EX2_ε [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Hughes, Graham, 1937–

Worship as Meaning: a Liturgical Theology for Late Modernity / Graham Hughes.

p. cm. – (Cambridge Studies in Christian Doctrine; 10)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 82851 1 (hardback) – ISBN 0 521 53557 3 (paperback)

1. Liturgics. 2. Meaning (Philosophy) – Religious aspects – Christianity. I. Title.
II. Series.

BV178.H84 2003

264'.001 – dc21 2003040950

ISBN 0 521 82851 1 hardback

ISBN 0 521 53557 3 paperback

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For Donika,
who was there at the beginning as at the end.

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