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ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THIS BOOK

Worship is grand Story enacted, not just told. It is the human adventure writ large and passionately visioned. It is our tangled journey of divine un-doings, hard choices, wrong turns, and second chances re-contexted with beauty and painstaking care. McFee gets all this deep in her bones, and her book is brilliant because of it. Clearly, she is one of the most masterful worship guides to appear in decades.

—SALLY MORGENTHALER, AUTHOR OF *WORSHIP EVANGELISM*

Marcia McFee has written an amazing “A-ha!” book on worship in a sea of “Ahh!” resources. “Ahh!” books confirm and carry on what you’ve always thought. Think Like a Filmmaker is an “A-ha!” book that will introduce you to new approaches and fresh ways of thinking about worship design. Worship artists will not want to let it out of arm’s reach.

—LEONARD SWEET, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, PROFESSOR (DREW UNIVERSITY, GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY, TABOR COLLEGE),
AND CHIEF CONTRIBUTOR TO *PREACHTHESTORY.COM*

The Church in the West needs all the encouragement it can get to re-evaluate its worship forms. There is no prescriptive form for how we all should worship. Marcia describes a stimulating creative process that we can all relate to. Best of all she describes a process for teams to collaborate across disciplines and skillsets. Any worship curator will find the worship events they design significantly enhanced with the practical help Marcia offers.

—MARK PIERSON, PASTOR, SPEAKER, WORSHIP CURATOR, AUTHOR OF
THE ART OF CURATING WORSHIP: RESHAPING THE ROLE OF WORSHIP LEADER

Marcia McFee’s use of the filmmaker model for the exploration of sensory-rich worship is a treasure of discourse, concepts, vocabulary, processes, exercises, procedures, illustrations, and online resources. She has hundreds of suggestions for ways to approach worship in a variety of congregations and settings. Possessing not only a substantive grasp of worship, McFee integrates it with the know-how that combines scholarship, art, and craft. The sustained excellence of this volume is simply mind-blowing.

—TEX SAMPLE, AUTHOR AND ROBERT B. AND KATHLEEN ROGERS PROFESSOR
EMERITUS OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY, SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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Lived liturgy happens when people—all the people—do the work of bringing our whole selves to the table, sitting together and passing on what we receive. Marcia invites us to ritual artistry—a “trellis” on which the expression of the people grows from the ground up, making room for more voices and for declaration that isn’t just decoration.

—TRAVIS REED, FOUNDER & FILMMAKER, THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

I consider this a new must-have book for pastoral leaders who are serious about helping worship go deeper and farther in the task of growing your congregation’s spiritual life. I believe that the monotony of much of our worship (no matter the style) is contributing to the demise of many of our congregations. Marcia’s experience in helping congregations create and experience meaningful and memorable worship for all kinds of people is distilled into this book. What a gift!

—THE REV. DR. ANN M. PHILBRICK, ASSOCIATE FOR CHURCH TRANSFORMATION FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY (PCUSA).

Our favorite films “make us forget we’re in a movie.” Transported into other worlds via scripts, soundtracks and cinematography the power of story takes hold. And why should our worship gatherings be any less? Think Like a Filmmaker will empower worship teams to let go of the linear “three songs and a sermon”—uncover their own layers of divine creativity – and engage an entirely new way of designing worship.

—KIM MILLER, AUTHOR AND WORSHIP AND CAMPUS DESIGNER—GINGHAMSBURG CHURCH

We know a good movie when we see one, just like we know sensory-rich worship when we experience it. Here, the art of worship, especially the artistic lens of great worship design, is explored from angles both sensory and scientific, challenging the plugged-in, piecemeal approach of “insert hymn here” and “now we need a prayer.” Think Like a Filmmaker offers a different take, believing worship can be, and should be, as sweeping and memorable as the best film you’ve ever seen. This book shows you how.

—THE REV. J. BENNETT GUESS, FORMER EXECUTIVE MINISTER, LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The powerful medium of film and the alluring power of mystery go together, and Marcia McFee knows why and shows how in her one-of-a-kind book. She is in full command of the creative capacities inherent in the “lens” of film for the shaping of compelling worship proclamations in the 21st century. Those who design worship will find here abundant resources for shaping ultimately transformative experiences for congregations of all sorts and sizes.

—DR. BOB HILL, MINISTER EMERITUS, COMMUNITY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI AND HOST
OF “RELIGION ON THE LINE” RADIO TALK SHOW

“Dr. Marcia McFee’s vision and ideas are a gift to the global church. This is a must-read for worship planners challenged to connect the worshipper with the Divine in exciting and innovative ways. Packed with ‘A-ha’ moments, Think Like a Filmmaker provides insight about the theory and practice of worship. Its message is universal, making it an essential resource for every pastor. Once I started reading, I could not put it down.

—SUDARSHANA DEVADHAR, BISHOP, BOSTON EPISCOPAL AREA (NEW
ENGLAND CONFERENCE) OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This is a desperately needed book for today’s Church. Marcia offers real insight and sources of inspiration for those designing worship services. I challenge anyone to read this book and not find it filled with “A-ha!” moments. Beware – this book could seriously change your Sundays!

—CHRIS LOUGHLIN, PICTUREWISE PRODUCTIONS, FORMER EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER, BBC TV RELIGION AND ETHICS DEPARTMENT

Having taught worship for 27 years, I can’t wait to use this book in class. Marcia McFee has identified some new dimensions of vital worship and clearly explained best practices for worship that will nurture faith and discipleship in the world. Many people who are yearning for ways to design worship that will be meaningful in our changing world will find help in this very interesting book.

—RUTH DUCK, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF WORSHIP,
GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Anyone who has a serious investment in the “big picture” of Christian worship’s potential should read this book. I have worked and played beside Marcia in worship for many years, marveling at her vision and exquisite skill in leading meaningful and memorable liturgy. Now worship designers everywhere can rejoice that she has shared her wisdom, leading us with refreshing insight into the possibilities for vital, faithful worship in the 21st century church.

—MARK A. MILLER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHURCH
MUSIC, DREW THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL AND LECTURER
IN SACRED MUSIC, YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL

*For those designing and leading worship for the first time or early in their ministry as well as those who have been designing and leading worship for years, *Think Like a Filmmaker* offers a new, if challenging, way to develop meaningful, dynamic, authentic and beautiful worship. Dr. McFee has provided a resource for churches of all types to utilize for the glory of God!*

—SALLY DYCK, UNITED METHODIST RESIDENT
BISHOP OF THE CHICAGO AREA

In a world of noise pollution and sensory overstimulation, the Body of Christ often suffers in silence, frozen in old forms that once held life. Marcia McFee offers a vibrant vision of the arts in service of the gospel in this congregational-friendly text and on-line resources. She invites us to take up the task of being “ritual artists” and “story-dwellers” and there is a place for everyone in this new creation.

—HEATHER MURRAY ELKINS, PROFESSOR OF
WORSHIP, PREACHING, AND THE ARTS

Words are my stock-in-trade, but as a filmmaker, writer and ordained minister, I believe an over-reliance on “the words” in worship dilutes their very power by neglecting the visual-sensory context in which those words are received. Dr. Marcia McFee understands this paradox, and her book provides a provocative new lens for looking at communicating “the story”—not just the words—in worship more effectively and powerfully.

—THE REV. KATHLEEN LACAMERA, FILMMAKER,
WRITER AND CHAPLAIN, UNITED KINGDOM