

# Preaching and Worship Portal Website Design

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## Introduction

The Preaching and Worship Portal (PWP) is a new website supported by the Lilly Foundation to provide convenient access to preaching and worship resources from partner websites and other resources across the Web. It will be a Drupal-based site developed and maintained by the CCEL team and run on CCEL servers under the [preachingandworship.org](http://preachingandworship.org) domain name. This document presents the specifications for the PWP website. It is preliminary and incomplete; requirements will evolve as the site is built and tested.

An analysis of users and use cases, along with the implications for user interface design, is available.<sup>1</sup> That document should be reviewed before reading this one. That document identifies the primary users as preachers and worship leaders preparing for a worship service and the primary use case as this:

A typical user is preparing for a worship service—sermon and/or liturgy and hymn selection. The user has a method of identifying the theme of the sermon, usually scripture passage and/or topic, but also possibly lectionary week, current events, church season, or special days or occasions. The user also indicates the type of resource desired. The website responds to such queries with a list of the best-matching resources, ranked by matching the user's profile and preferences as well as resource popularity and rating.

## Functionality

The primary functionality of the website will be to direct users to preaching and worship resources around the Web. There will be no advertising or e-commerce, and search will be the main activity. However, there will also be columns of links on the front page below the search box that disappear when search results are being shown. These columns may show featured articles, resources for the upcoming lectionary week, and the like. There will also be treatment pages for named entities such as biblical people, places, and concepts.

One additional requirement on the system is that it support cohorts. A cohort is a small group of pastors working together to support each other. Initially, there should be a page that allows an editor to create a cohort and manage membership. The website should offer capabilities for members to support each other. Initially, these should consist of discussion forums only open to cohort members, a list of recent resources visited by cohort members in the right sidebar, and search results tuned to favor results viewed by other cohort members.

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<sup>1</sup> PWP User Interface Design, available as CCEL Tech. Report #11, [http://www.ccel.org/tr/PWP\\_User\\_Interface\\_Design.pdf](http://www.ccel.org/tr/PWP_User_Interface_Design.pdf)

The website should be responsive, working on cell phones and tablets as well as desktop computers. Links and click targets should be big enough for fingers on small screens, and the images and artwork should appear in high resolution on iPads and other high-resolution screens. It should have a banner across the top that is common to all pages. In a wide view, it should have a quarter-width right sidebar with lists such as currently popular pages, information about the site, and partner websites.

### *Design*

Since the target audience is educated and caters to people who work with words, it will be somewhat logocentric, with some design cues (especially columns and text style) from the *Arts and Letters Daily* page.

There will be three principal page types: the home page, search result pages, and entity treatment pages. Before a search has been performed, the main content area of the home page, below the search box, should have lists of article teasers and resources, as in the mockup below.

# Preaching and Worship Portal

Search results tuned to your preferences

Search

Examples: Math. 5:18 commentary  
Compassion illustrations  
Pentecost call to worship  
Videos for Baptism

Currently Popular

Pentecost 2A  
Compassion

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Partner Websites

CICW  
Center for Exegetics...

Articles of Note

Abrasive and stridency are not character flaws everywhere and always. Intellectual progress requires rudeness... more»

William T. Vollmann writes in a dress and wig. Why? "Women are the ones who give life." Should he win the Nobel, he'll give the prize money to prostitutes... more»

On a boat in the Aegean, Daniel Mendelsohn receives a call. Family emergency? No. It's Robert Silvers. There's a word amiss... more»

The epics of Homer, the poems of Sappho, the tragedies of Sophocles were all, originally, set to music. What did they sound like?... more»

When her mother died, the poet Joy Katz's faith in words faltered. Grief poems felt false, uplift poems irksome. She sought words about the failure of words... more»

About Jonathan Swift, a biographer is forced to speculate – his parents, his politics, his personality, his use of "coffee" as a euphemism for sex... more»

The drone warrior's day: 12 hours in a sealed shed in the Nevada desert, stinking of sweat, farts, and cigarettes. Best to stay in "zombie mode"... more»

↑  
General articles,  
news

Essays & Opinions

A 400-plus-page book on Norman Rockwell's willfully uninteresting life? Better tart it up with an allegation that he was gay... more»

The planless poetry of D.H. Lawrence. His best work, said T.S. Eliot, displayed "an incapacity for what we ordinarily call thinking"... more»

Mark Twain wrote spontaneously; his plots were makeshift, his approach seat-of-the-pants. So he dictated his autobiography. The result: tedium... more»

Susan Sontag took all of knowledge as her province. To be curious was a moral obligation. A taste for conquest was her intellectual style... more»

Trade one life to save five? A Harvard psychologist thinks "deep pragmatism" can transcend the moral limitations of man. Thomas Nagel is dubious... more»

Isaac Deutscher's optimism explains his misjudgments – worst of all, about Stalin. But what explains Deutscher's formidable reputation?... more»

A modern Marx. Jonathan Sperber's attempt to confine the man to his milieu misses the point. Marx's ideas shape our world... more»

↑  
blogs, essays  
entertaining  
passage

Pentecost 2A

her cut off his own right hand. Her killed a kitten with chloroform. The y but strangely sustaining family Marianne Moore... more»

nothing wrong with being a lf, as long as you can run off to the t the crucial moment... more»

iable grammarian is refreshingly of less-than-strict usage. But e does have its limits... more»

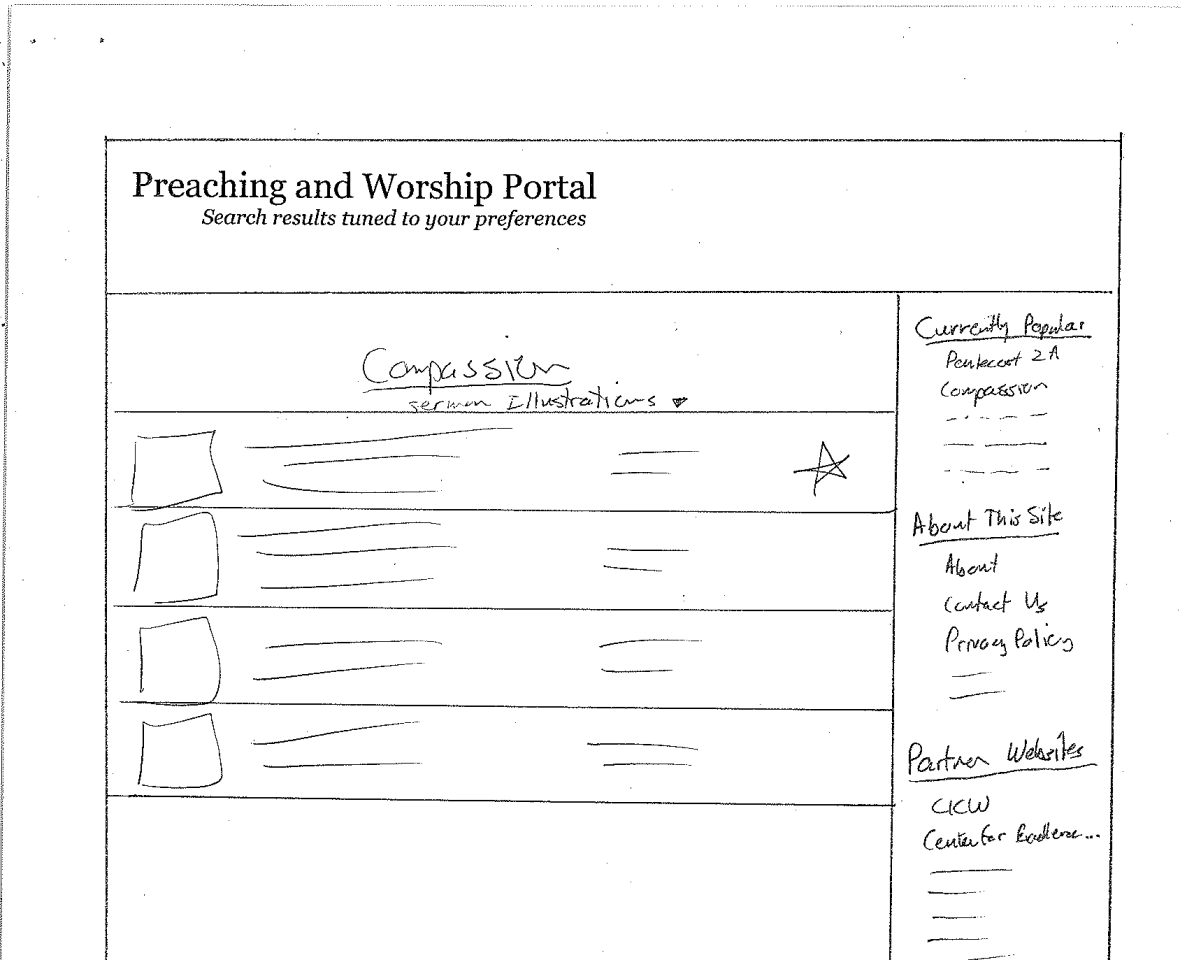
on moral monism, Ronald n turned his thoughts to the . His conclusion? There is religion larists... more»

umans – so fractious and violent –

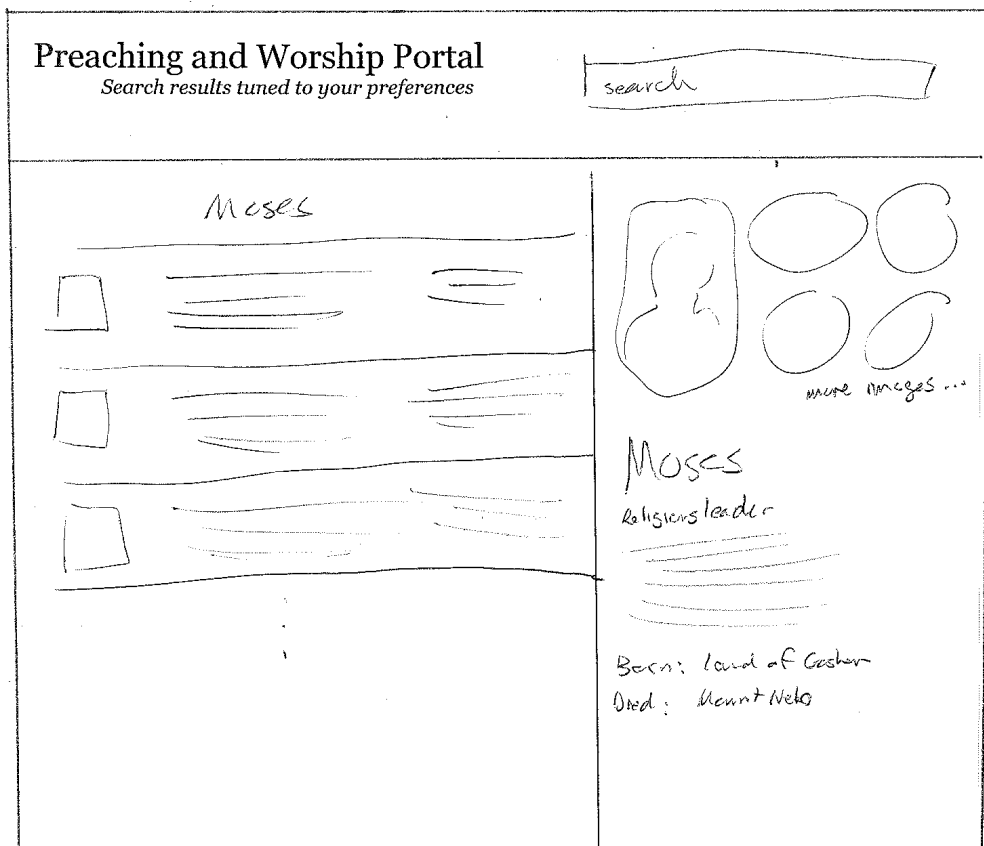
↑  
popular resources  
on lectionary  
passage

When a search has been entered, the content of the home page changes: the lists of links disappear and a list of search results appears. For a search for sermon illustrations for "compassion," the page might look like this. We could also place a prominent search box in the right hand side of the header section.

We could place a star beside resources we want to highlight. This could be resources that have the "featured" flag set and/or those that have named recommendations. On the other hand, showing the named recommendations may be enough to make them stand out.

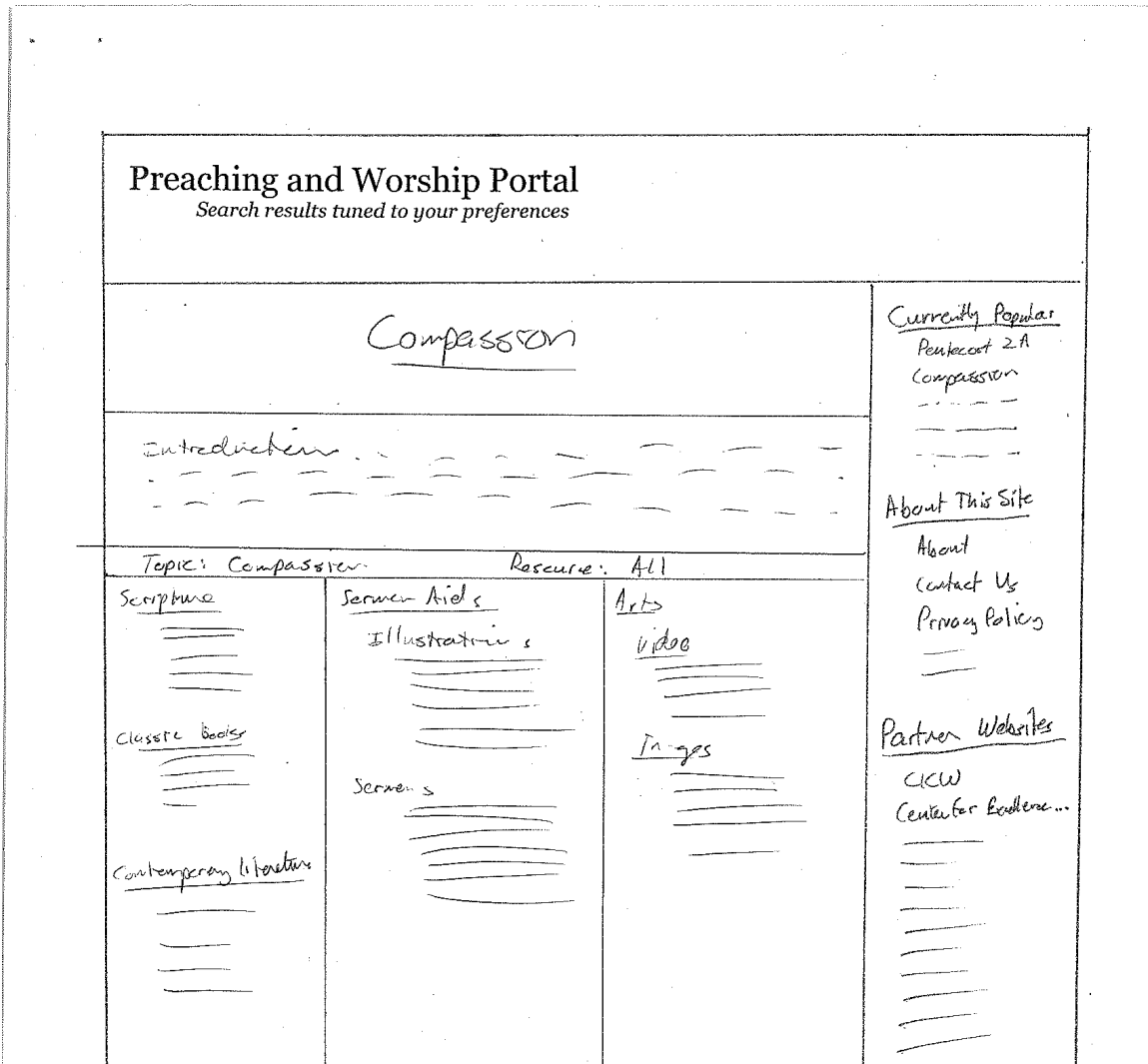


Note that once we determine that a search is on an entity such as "Moses" for which we have a treatment, the right sidebar can be replaced (and widened) with some of the information from the "Moses" treatment.



If the user clicks on a search result which is the “compassion” entity treatment, the treatment page will open. Such pages may have different schemas depending on the entity type, but they can be displayed something like the mockup below. Information about the entity is followed by top links and resources for the entity. If there are long sections of text in the treatment, we could show the first few lines with a “more >” link. The feel of a full treatment page could be similar to text or tune authority pages on Hymnary.org—a variety of resources in sequence, perhaps with a table of contents popup on the left. From that perspective, it may be better to show the various kinds of resources in sequence rather than in columns.

The lists such as “sermon illustrations” should show the few most popular resources of the specified type for the entity. Clicking on the headings should lead to a page of appropriate search results—in this case, sermon illustrations for “compassion.” We could also add a link below each section labeled “more >” to lead to the appropriate search.



There should be pages for weeks of the common lectionary for each denominational variant. These could be treated as entity pages. Lectionary pages should have a way of moving to other weeks of the lectionary, possibly a calendar. Whenever possible there should be thumbnails of appropriate images or videos.

This site will need tools for cataloging resources and controlling a Web crawler. Functional specifications are available in the document “Cataloging for the Preaching and Worship Portal.”<sup>2</sup> It will also need pages for editing the information for entities of the various supported types.

## Entity views

In addition to pages, we will need views of entities or resources that are smaller than pages that will be used in particular circumstances.

*Resource view.* For a search results page, we will need a view of a resources that is two-thirds to three-quarters the width of the page, i.e. the width of the content area, and about 1-2 inches high. We may have 10 of these on a search results page. The view should have enough context that users can make a reasonably informed decision about whether to click on the resource. That should include a small image, title, 24-word teaser, author or source, resource type, a measure of popularity, any available named recommendations, and possibly a list of entity tags in small type. If such lists are too long to include, they could be made available as a popup when mousing over a “Tags” link, perhaps. There should be a drop arrow beside the source name leading to a popup view of the source information.

*Source page view.* A source for a resource is typically a website or an author. This view gives the information we have about the source: perhaps a name, home page, denomination, brief description if available, picture, and list of resources from the source, essentially a search result list. There should be a way to search for resources from the source, probably a search box that adds a constraint that searches be from this source, containing the text “Search for resources from \_\_\_\_”.

*Source popup view.* This view has the same information as above, organized and abridged to fit in a popup. There should be a link to the page view for the source, perhaps labeled “more >”.

*Entity page view.* This view of an entity fills the content area of a page. At the top of the content area the information we have about the entity should be presented, followed by lists of the most useful links, as in the mockup above. There should be different templates for the different entity types. The list of entity types is determined by the types used in the ontology. Initially, this may include person, bible person, place, topic, book, author, site, holiday, season, event, and bible book.

*Entity sidebar view.* This is an abridged view of entity information for a sidebar to be shown on the right side of a search results page. It does not include all the links of the page view, though if there are one or a couple of very popular links for the entity, it could include those.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ccel.org/files/tr/Cataloging\\_for\\_the\\_PWP.pdf](http://www.ccel.org/files/tr/Cataloging_for_the_PWP.pdf)

## Architecture

Drupal-based websites must be updated not long after a release of a new major version of Drupal, because only the two most recently-released major versions are supported. Thus, it is best to start with the latest available version of Drupal, even a development version if it will be stable enough by the time the site is released. However, although version 8 of Drupal is nearing beta release, it is still in alpha testing and may be subject to API changes yet this summer. In addition, module support for version 8 is still a ways off, so we will probably have to work with Version 7.

The information about entities, resources, etc. will be in a semantics database rather than the site's Drupal database. There should be a separate doc table, which will store information on a resource that will be used to display views of the resource and send information to Sphinx for the search index. There should be an entity table to store entities and their types, and for each type, there will be a separate table storing the information needed for each entity of that type.

## Other functionality

Statistics about searches, entity views, and search result clicks will be gathered by the semantic search engine. There should be additions to the CCEL monitor for monitoring function of the PWP.

There should be a page on the CCEL monitor for the PWP giving statistics such as the number of users logged in, minute/hour/daily use statistics, the top 10 entities viewed for the week, top 10 resources viewed for the week, number of resources indexed, number of resources in the queue for cataloging, etc. Also, there should be additions to the ccel-monitor home page for key PWP statistics.

There should be a page where users can edit their profile data. Initially, there should be a way to add their full name, upload a picture, select their denomination from a list, optionally check a box saying "prefer resources from my own denomination," create a list of favorite sources/authors, and check a box saying "prefer resources from my favorite sources and authors." The page should show any cohort they are a part of along with a list of members, and clicking on a member's name should open a form to send that member email. There should be a "remove me from this cohort" button. Later we will probably add additional profile information.