Contents

Ack	knowledgments	vii
	Introduction. Worship as Ritual: Understanding	
	and Claiming Ethical Christian Ritual	1
	What Is "Ritual"?	1
	Four Attributes of Ritual Practice	4
	Reasons to Create Caring Liturgies	9
1.	Creative Rites: Assessing Pastoral Ritual Need	19
	Joanie's Story	22
	The Problem of Resistance	24
	Resistance as a Dilemma between Theology and Experience	27
	Ritual Creativity: Solving Dilemmas through the Third Way	34
	Resistance as Unrecognized Vulnerability and the Need	
	for Empathy	36
2.	Ritual Midwives: Planning and Leading Ritual	43
	Engaging a Caring, Competent Community	
	for Ritual Planning	43
	Four Attributes Necessary for Ritual Planning	46
	Roles Necessary to Planning a Ritual	51
	Roles Necessary to Conducting a Ritual	53
	Speaking or Acting "On Behalf Of"	59

vi Contents

3.	Metaphors and Symbols: Linking a Person's Story		
	to the Christian Story	65	
	Arriving at a "Defining Metaphor"	66	
	How Metaphor Works	69	
	Entering the World of the Metaphor	71	
	From Metaphor to Symbol	75	
	From Symbol to Sacrament: The Sacramental Principle	77	
	Using Symbols Sacramentally	79	
	People as Symbols	81	
	Effective Symbols: Symbolic Rupture	84	
	Using Symbols Ethically	86	
4.	Ritual Honesty: Holding Truthful Tension	89	
	Five Aspects of Ritual Honesty	89	
	1. A Ritual Sets a Dominant Feeling-Tone	91	
	2. Accommodating a Wide Range of Feelings and Thoughts	93	
	3. Ritual Symbols Must Be True	99	
	4. Ritual Involves Everyone Present	101	
	5. Allowing the Creative Tension of Opposites		
	to Abide Together	103	
5.	Holy Sacrifice: Mediating the Labor Pains of Change	109	
	A Brief Christian Midrash on Sacrifice	111	
	Labor as an Expression and Integration of Holy Sacrifice	115	
6.	The Paschal Mystery: The Crux of Caring Ritual	123	
	Centerpiece of Christian Living: The Paschal Mystery of Christ	124	
	1. Paschal Mystery as Ritual Spirituality of Baptism	128	
	2. Paschal Mystery as Lens Through Which to See Life	132	
	3. Paschal Mystery as Both Call and Commitment		
	of the Baptized	133	
	4. Death to New Life as the Critical Criterion	135	
	Conclusion	138	
Notes		139	
Index		147	