



Welcome and Introduction

This morning, we are continuing with our Discipleship Pathways and focusing on “Worship”, the theme of which will continue through our daily reflections this week. Hopefully this will enable us to think more about worship: **what** it is, **when**, **where** and **how** we can worship and perhaps most importantly **who** are we worshipping and **why**.

I think we also need to recognise that today is Father’s Day. A day of celebration and joy for many, whilst acknowledging that this can be a difficult day for others.

But first, let us open in prayer.

Call to Worship

Come and worship,
you who would love God with all your heart.
Come and pray, you who would love God with all your soul.
Come and serve,
you who would love God with all your strength.
Come and find peace,
you who would love God with all your mind.
In Jesus’ name, come.

Amen

Prayers of Adoration

We worship.
Make our worship yours.
We praise your name.
Hallow our praise.
We adore you.
Breathe on our adoration.
And draw our hearts towards you
that our feet may follow... dancing.

Amen.

(Roots)

Opening hymns

Our first hymn invites us, to “come” to worship. It tells us that **now** is the time to worship, not another day, when we have more time, when we’re less busy, when we’re feeling like it, when we’ve got our act together etc. etc. It gives us an indication of what we need to do during this worship, to **give our hearts** to the Lord. And encouragingly it reminds us that we can come **just as we are**.

Hymn StF 24 Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are
God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now

Brian Doerksen.

And we continue in our worship by singing **Blessed be your name StF 41**. Recognising that life has its many challenges but we can still praise our Lord.

Blessed be your name StF 41

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

And blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

*Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name*

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing ...

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say, Lord
Blessed be Your name, Lord

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name, I'll find a way to say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name, from the risin' of the
sun over us
To the settin' of the same, though there's pain
in the offering
Oh, blessed be Your name
Blessed be, blessed be, blessed be Your Holy
name
Matt Redman

Prayers of Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness followed by the Lord's Prayer

Period of silence to lift up the prayers God has put on our hearts.

Let us bring before the Lord
the words that may have hurt
and all those left unsaid;
the anger we have felt
and resentment we have fed.
Let us be still before the Lord
Rest quietly in his presence
Listen.

(Pause)

The Lord is slow to anger
willing to forgive
full of Grace.
Draw near to him.
Know in your heart that through the Cross.
Your sins have been forgiven.

And so, as redeemed, forgiven people we say the Lord's Prayer together in which ever version you are more familiar

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
thy kingdom comes
thy will be done.
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against
us.
And lead us not into temptation.
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Imagine, you're in a service (a bit like this one) and they play your favourite hymn, and your response is, "Yes! Worship is great this week." Or another week when perhaps some of the hymns were less familiar to you, and your response is "I didn't know that one" "I prefer more traditional/more contemporary/more organ/ more worship band etc. etc." We may have even changed churches because of the preferred worship style. How often do we come away from a service thinking I didn't get anything out of that.

What if worship isn't about us - What if it isn't about how it made us feel, or what we got out of it, or whether we liked it, or

What if worship isn't about us at all - But about Jesus.

This next hymn reminds us of what is at the heart of worship...

Hymn When the music fades 437 StF

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, it's all about You,
Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, it's all about You,
Jesus*

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much you deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Every single breath
I'll bring You more than a song

For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart
I'm coming back ...

I'll bring You more than a song
I'll bring You more than a song
More than a song
I'll bring You more than a song
I'll bring You more than a song (than a song)
You're looking into my heart, looking into my heart
You're looking into my heart, into my heart
I'll bring You more than a song
I'll bring You more than a song

What is worship?

Is it about singing songs together? Is it about making music? Is it a genre of music?

I think we could answer yes to those questions.

But it's not just that, it's more than that.

It's thinking about what is most important to us, what we value above all else, what we give our highest priority to.

Here are some definitions of worship.

William Temple

Worship is the **submission** of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the **surrender** of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin.

John Frame

Redemption is the means; worship is the goal. In one sense, worship is the whole point of everything. It is the purpose of history, the goal of the whole Christian story. Worship is not one segment of the Christian life among others. **Worship is the entire Christian life**, seen as a priestly offering to God. And when we meet together as a church, our time of worship is not merely a preliminary to something else; rather, it is the whole point of our existence as the body of Christ.

Louie Giglio

Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to God for who He is, and what He has done; expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.

Which one do we feel most closely aligned to? What if we were asked to write a definition of worship? What would we write?

When is worship?

Is it about Sunday mornings? Yes

But it's not just that, it's about more than that.

Worship extends to all aspects of our lives. It's about our relationships, our actions, our work, our money, our generosity, how we behave towards others, the words we choose...

Worship was integral to the practice of the Early Church, although it may have looked different to today. Worship was a combination of time at the temple and domestic gatherings arranged around a celebration of the Last Supper. Luke tells us in Acts: "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God" (Acts 2:46).

Historically daily worship was evident, perhaps in the monasteries and in the practice of Julian of Norwich. There are still some churches or communities that worship daily.

Yet whilst we may not attend daily worship services, worship can still be part of our daily lives in other ways. Our daily exercise in faith.

Where is worship?

In Church? Yes.

But also, everywhere. We don't come to church to meet God. He is with us wherever we are. Let's just look at John Wesley who often preached in the open air!

Hymn How great thou art StF 82

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have
made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to
Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to*

*Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
And when I think that God, His Son not
sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Then sings my soul ...

Songwriters: Stuart K. Hine.

Bible Reading Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)

"¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Reflection - The original hearers of these passages were a group of believers that were struggling, struggling to hold onto their faith, in the face of pressure from their society. Perhaps things aren't that different for us today.

The author of Hebrews has been talking about the high priest offering animal sacrifices as a sin offering. They have talked about the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. And now they speak of a new kind of sacrifice.

A sacrifice of praise

The word “continually” might seem a bit daunting. But I think it is saying that worship was not limited to the temple. That we can offer worship anytime and anywhere. As an overflowing of our love for God. As an outpouring of praise and thanksgiving. Expressed through how we live our lives.

The **fruit of lips** that openly profess his name.

Matthew 15:8-9 “This people honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me.”

The phrase “lip service” apparently originates in the Bible and refers to honouring God with words alone. Not supported by our actions. Instead, we need to ensure our words are reflective of our hearts and our love of God, shown through the way we live our lives and serve one another.

But we are also told not to forget to **do good and to share with others**.

To honour our generous God by living with open hands.

This is not because we need to secure favour with God, earn our place in heaven or gain brownie points. It's because God's grace transforms and empowers us. It's our response to all he has done for us. Our response in praise and witness.

The root meaning of the word worship is **worthiness** or **worth-ship**. Worship is revealing the worth of God. Of valuing or treasuring God above all.

The word worship when used in this context is a **verb**, and I was always taught at school that a verb is a “doing” word, it's an action.

verb

wor·ship ['wɜː-shəp](#)

also 'wɔː-

worshipped *also* **worshipped**, **worshipping** *also* **worshipping**

[Synonyms of worship](#)

[transitive verb](#)

: to honour or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power

: to regard with great or extravagant respect, honour, or devotion

a celebrity *worshipped* by her fans

[intransitive verb](#)

: to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship

How do we worship?

In Spirit and Truth - In John 4:23-24 Jesus said, “The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

There are many ways in which we can worship. Through reading and studying the Bible, through prayer: in thanksgiving, confession, praise and petition, through music, sharing our testimony, sharing our faith, serving others, in our giving, through fellowship, in our obedience, as we notice God in creation, with humility and joy and awe. In our words and our actions. In our lives and our work.

What can you add to this list?

Who and why do we worship?

The who is perhaps easier to answer. The Ten Commandments were clear we are to worship no other god before Him, we are to recognise God's supreme authority and place God at the centre of our lives and our worship.

We are called to worship as ‘a means of grace’, an activity to which God calls us so that our faith is strengthened and we become increasingly aware of God's love. We are transformed through God's grace.

In Called to Love and Praise (1999), the Methodist Church stated that worship has “a twofold intention: first, adoration and praise, and second, our transformation by the grace and power of God.”

Why do we worship **with others**?

We have seen that we can worship as we go through our daily lives.

Yet, we are called to be a community of believers, a body of Christ, a family of faith. We worship with others in the universal Church and with all the company of heaven. Although there are differences between denominations and movements we are united in our call to follow Jesus. And we are reminded that this community is diverse, where all are welcome.

Worship is the Christian community’s celebration of its faith in a living God. It is an exultation, a hymn of praise, a great thanksgiving, for the truth and love shown to us in Jesus Christ and made real for us by his transforming spirit.

And finally...

Colossians 3:14-17

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, may we worship you
in the beauty of holiness:
with music, dance, stillness,
words and silence.

May the joy of your presence
fill our lives, and overflow
into the lives of all around us...

Let us spend time in the quiet to lift to the Lord the people, places, and situations that God has placed on our hearts this morning.

Amen.

Final Hymn 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before
me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord ...

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
Bless the Lord ...

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
(forevermore)

Bless the Lord ...

Matthew James Redman, Jonas Carl Gustaf Myrin

Take-away

This week I encourage us to think about the ways we worship God in our daily lives. Use the daily reflections throughout this week to think more about this. Let us come to God in praise and thanksgiving, in confession and petition. And let us not forget to do good works: worship in action.

Dismissal and Grace - May we say the words of the grace together.

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.**

Amen