

## Some Thoughts on Worship

A few favorite quotes:

Michael Catt film producer, “Fireproof” – *“If we are going to worship in Spirit, we must develop a spirit of Worship*

C.S. Lewis – *“The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David ...dance”*

A.W. Tozer (“Pursuit of God”) – *“Without worship, we go about miserable.”*

Charles Spurgeon – *“God is to be praised with the voice, - and the heart should go, therewith, in holy exultation.”*

Henry Ward Beecher – *“I never knew how to worship ...until I knew how to love.”*

J.I Packer – *“We need to discover again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the Israelites who wrote the Psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields and endless flow of thankfulness, joy and zeal.”*

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Liturgy - what we do and why we do it.

**Liturgy** - we often hear “we are a “Liturgical Church”

Ancient (Attic) Greek - *leitourgia* – ‘*work of the people*’  
– a contraction - ‘leitos’ (people) & ‘ergon’ (work)

We kneel to pray, we stand to sing, we sit to listen, ...we ignore the ‘ding’ of our cell phones (...Cass added that last one...)

**Kneeling** - Psalm 95:6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker!*

**Standing**: Singing for spiritual purposes is an engagement of the whole person (where possible): spirit, soul and body. It is active. It is focused. It is a unified action of the whole community

**Sitting to ‘Listen’** - Psalm 46:10 - *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Kneel, Stand, Sit; Kneel, Stand, Sit etc., etc. ( be glad we don’t have to pirouette)

These are sometimes known as ‘Anglican Aerobics’

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There is a further step which we don't need to do...

\*\*\*Genuflection or bowing the head – some do this – as they enter or leave the pew - as a sign of reverence to the Lord, our Creator

(General rule – “*some do, all may, none must*”)

Here's another – Th Holy Water Font

It goes back to our Judeo-Christians roots. Jesus and the apostles would have symbolically ‘washed’ for spiritually before entering the Temple in Jerusalem or a local synagogue to worship, like in Capernaum, or before going back out into the world beyond the ‘red doors’.

For many it is a remembrance of our Baptism; our adoption into the Christian Family.

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In our Worship Service in the Anglican Church:

Prayers are offered – corporately and individually

Scripture is read

Scripture is expounded upon (Preaching)

The Eucharist is consecrated and is shared by the people

Acts 2: 42 ***“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer.”***

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We should worship God because:

God is worthy of our prayers

God desires it

John 4: 23 – 24 ***“But 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.”***

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Worship must be:

\*Intellectual (Cerebral) (understand what we are doing...)

\*Aesthetic (Spiritual, Beautiful, Visual, Meaningful,  
Evocative, Significant)

\*Corporate – together

\*Moral (ethical, good, honest, thankful, truthful)

\*An Act of Thanksgiving – Gr. Eucharista

\*Undertaken with Commitment

\* With Thanksgiving – Gr. Eucharista

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*We are standing  
On holy ground  
And I know that there are angels  
All around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in His presence  
On holy ground  
(Charity Gayle)*

