

# Pathway Covenant

---

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

# Uses of the term Worship in the Bible

---

THREE DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS

A solid orange horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

# The scope of the applications

---

1. Worship as all of our lives offered back to God. (Romans 12:1-2)
2. Worship as Liturgy, the work of the people gathered; the worship service. (John 4:19, Psalm 95:6, Psalm 102:22)
3. Worship as ascribing praise, song. (Psalm 100:2)

# Uses of the word “worship” in the Bible

---



# What is “Liturgy” or “The Liturgy?”

People misunderstand liturgy as “old” “formal”

---

Liturgy is not a “Church” word and is defined as “The work of the people” The liturgy = “the order of actions presented.”

Every church has a liturgy as does other public events i.e., entering a movie theater or going to a football game.

The liturgy orders the actions of the gathered people to tell God’s story; the purpose of gathered worship is telling God’s story.

We are not KING of our own story. The liturgy helps move us beyond ourselves.

The question we should ask when evaluating worship is what story was told and how does it reflect our understanding of God.

# Pathway's Liturgy

---

WHAT WE DO TOGETHER

# We enter fear free space...Extending hospitality

---

*We are here because of God's hospitality and we share the privilege of offering to each*

## **Reflection**

*God welcomes you here in the name of Christ. To the stranger in need of fellowship, to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, to all of us imperfect people with failures and hurts this congregation opens wide its doors and welcomes all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# We move from...Scattered to gathered

---

*from busy individual lives to a gathered  
community*

## **A silent prayer of reflection:**

O God, By your power, may we, with all your children around the world gathering today, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the Love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may filled with you fullness as we are sent to the world.

-based on Ephesians 3:18-19



# We come together...Call to worship

---

*participating in the gift exchange of worship,  
hearing from God and responding to Him*

**We respond...***with Scripture, responsive reading  
or song*

# We recognize our sin...Confession & Assurance

---

We honestly approach God with our failures and sin and experience the liberating joy of God's forgiveness

We respond...*with Scripture or responsive reading assuring us of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

# We pray together...Humble prayers of God's people

---

*we collectively share our adoration, praises, confession, thanksgiving and supplications, while preparing to hear God's word.*

# We hear...God's Word Presented

---

*The Word of God is presented, shaping our beliefs and practices*



# We share...The feast

(Lord's Supper or Eucharist)

---

*“We do not simply remember a long-since dead Jesus; we celebrate the presence of the living Lord. And he lives, through the resurrection, precisely as the one who has gone on ahead into the new creation, the transformed new world, as the one who is himself the prototype...we can understand the Eucharist most fully as the anticipation of the banquet when heaven and earth are made new, the marriage of the Lamb...It is the breaking in of God's future, the Advent future, into our present time. Every Eucharist is a little Christmas as well as a little Easter.”*

*(N.T. Wright. Surprised By Hope. 274)*

# We move from...Gathered to scattered

---

*we leave to be the hands, feet  
and voice of Christ to our  
community*

## **Benediction:**

As you have been fed through God's grace, go to  
feed the hungry.

As you have been set free, go to set free the  
imprisoned.

As you have received forgiveness, offer it freely.

As you have heard, proclaim.

And the blessing that you have received  
from God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
be always with you.

**Amen.**

# Five Observations

---

POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCKS IN WORSHIP



# First, focusing on only one aspect of worship

---

For some if worship is all of life, then why show up on at a Sunday worship gathering? For others worship becomes synonymous with music and is not related to our lives outside of the church gathered.



# Second, evaluating worship based on how it made you feel.

---

*“If personal encounter and its psychic benefit are premier reasons for participating in worship, then the church becomes less and less a community of faith in Christ, and more and more a gathering of individuals who think a joint experience of worship gets them a better personal buzz. But ‘more important than our experience of Christ is the Christ of our experience,’ says James Torrence, and he’s right. Good feelings are a fine byproduct of focusing upon Christ in worship, but they are not the goal. To focus our devotion on Christ is to “offer ourselves as a living sacrifice” both to Christ and to the body of Christ. People who present themselves in these ways sometimes feel good about it, and sometimes not, but in either case they have actually worshipped.”*

*(CTS Intro to Worship Reader, 2002, p.92)*

# Third, passively observing performance

---

Here the stumbling block is judging the quality of the singers, musicians, and speakers as a prerequisite of engaging the worship gathering.

# Fourth, failing to properly prepare your hearts for worship

---

Entering the worship gathering out of a morning of chaos becomes a stumbling block for having ears to hear and eyes to see the work of God in the gathering.

# Fifth, failure of leaders to properly prepare for the worship gathering.

---

Here the stumbling block is those charged with leading the gathering not offering their best in preparation and execution. Excellence is not present because they've not offered the best of their gifts.