

WORSHIP BY GOD'S DESIGN

A Biblical Guide to Worship

The Gathering Song

Psalm 100:4 Psalm 42:4
Psalm 122:1 Isaiah 35:10
Psalm 95:1-2

Our entrance into God's presence through song and praise. Just as the Israelites would approach the temple with songs of praise, we begin our worship by acknowledging we are entering into the presence of God. The gathering symbolizes our journey as pilgrims coming into God's courts with joy and thanksgiving.

The Collect of the Day

Jeremiah 29:12 Matthew 18:19-20
Psalm 65:2 Acts 4:24-31
1 Timothy 2:1-4

The Collect of the Day serves as a focused, communal prayer that "collects" the themes of the day's worship and Scripture reading into a single, unified petition. This practice reflects biblical pattern of corporate prayer, where God's people join their voices in one accord.

Reading the Word

1 Timothy 4:13 Romans 10:17
Luke 4:16-21 Joshua 8:34-35
Nehemiah 8:1-8 Acts 13:27

The public reading of Scripture has been a central practice of God's people since ancient times. In synagogue worship, which informed early Christian practice, Scripture readings were fundamental. We hear God's voice directly through His Word and encounter Christ, the Living Word.

Prayers of the People

1 Timothy 2:1-2 Philippians 4:6
Matthew 6:9-13 James 5:16
Acts 1:14 Ephesians 6:18

The prayers of the people represent the priesthood of all believers in action, as the congregation joins together in bringing the needs of the world before God. This practice follows the biblical pattern of corporate prayer and Jesus' own teaching on prayer. It acknowledges our dependence on God and our responsibility to intercede for others.

Words of Knowledge

James 5:14-15 John 14:12
Mark 16:17-18 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3
Romans 12:6 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Prophecy and healing ministry reflect the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the church today. When believers exercise the gift of prophecy by sharing words of knowledge or calling out specific needs, they participate in God's supernatural communication with His people. This practice follows the biblical pattern where God would speak through individuals to strengthen, encourage, and comfort others.

The Eucharist

Mark 14:22-25 John 6:53-56
Acts 2:42 1 Corinthians 10:16
John 6:51 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Eucharist fulfills Jesus' explicit command to "do this in remembrance of me." It connects us to the Passover meal Jesus transformed and makes present his sacrifice. Through this sacred meal, we proclaim Christ's death until He comes again, receive spiritual nourishment, and experience His real presence among us in a unique way.

Healing Ministry

Mark 16:17-18 Acts 28:8
Luke 4:40 Mark 5:23, 41-42
James 5:14-15

Prayer for healing continues Jesus' ministry of wholeness and demonstrates His compassion and power. When we call people forward for prayer ministry, we follow James' instruction for the church and acknowledge that God continues to work through His people to bring restoration.

The Declaration

Matthew 18:20 Ruth 2:4
1 Peter 2:9 2 Timothy 4:22
Revelation 1:6 2 Thessalonians 3:16

This exchange affirms the mutual ministry of all believers and the presence of God among His people. It echoes ancient biblical greetings and acknowledges that worship is not a performance by a few but requires the active participation of all believers. The reciprocal blessing reinforces that both clergy and congregation have direct access to God.

Worship with Songs

Ephesians 5:19 Isaiah 6:1-5
Colossians 3:16 Exodus 33:14-15
Psalm 96:1-2 John 16:13

True worship brings us into God's holy presence, where we naturally respond with humility and repentance as Isaiah did. This encounter with God's presence creates the fertile ground necessary for receiving God's Word and truth, allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and transform us.

Singing the Gospel Song

Psalm 119:105 Psalm 119:18
Acts 13:15 Psalm 95:7-8
Psalm 19:7-8 Isaiah 55:3

The gradual song serves as a bridge between the earlier reading and the Gospel, preparing our hearts to hear the words of Christ. It mirrors how the Psalms were used to prepare worshippers to encounter God. The song acknowledges the special significance of the Gospel as the heart of Scripture.

Reading of the Gospel

Luke 4:18-19 Matthew 7:24-27
Luke 11:28 Matthew 28:19-20
John 8:47 John 14:23-24

The Gospel reading holds a place of special honour as it directly presents the words and actions of Christ. Standing for the Gospel reading symbolizes respect and readiness to act on Christ's teachings. In the Gospel, Christ is present among us through His words, fulfilling His promise to be with us always.

Penitence

1 John 1:9 James 5:16
Isaiah 6:5-7 Psalm 32:5
Psalm 51:1-2

We come before God acknowledging our unworthiness and need for cleansing. Just as Isaiah could not stand in God's presence without purification, confession prepares our hearts to receive God's Word and participate in communion. True worship requires honest self-examination and repentance.

The Greeting of Peace

John 20:19 Colossians 3:15
Romans 16:16 1 Peter 5:14
Ephesians 4:3 John 14:27

The peace is not merely a social greeting but enacts Jesus' gift of peace to his disciples and fulfills his command to be reconciled before offering gifts to God. This exchange acknowledges that true worship requires peace and unity among believers, as we are one body in Christ.

The Dismissal

Mark 16:15 Matthew 28:19-20
Acts 1:8 Isaiah 6:8
John 20:21 2 Corinthians 5:20

The dismissal at the end of the service is far more than a mere conclusion to a service - it is commissioning that directly connects to Jesus' Great Commission. The words "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" echo Christ's command to "go and make disciples."

