

Transforming Worship

A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

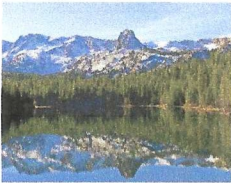
Part 1

Why worship?



1

What is worship?




We all have spiritual moments

2

Worship is...

- **Weoroscipe** Old English
literally 'worth-ship'
weoro = worthy scipe = state
- Central (Deuteronomy 6. 5)
- The whole of life (Romans 12.1)
- A transforming encounter (Exodus 3. 5)



3

Worship has a social aspect

- 'We are the body of Christ.
By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.'

Worship prepares us for mission

- 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.'



4

Questions to think about:

- What does worship mean to you?

*Think of an act of worship that particularly moved you
– why did this happen?*

- What do you find helpful or unhelpful in worship?

Press pause and take 10 – 15 minutes to reflect or discuss

5

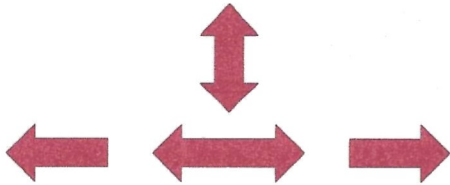
Why worship?

- *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (1646-7)
'Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.'
- *The Canons of the Church of England* (Canon B1.2)
'Worship offered should glorify God and edify the people.'



6

A dynamic dialogue



7

Liturgy

Leitourgia

Greek derived from

laos = people

ergon = work

literally

'the work of the people'
for the people



8

Questions to think about

- What is worship like in your own church?
- How does the liturgy – or 'the work of the people' – happen in practice?

Press pause and take 10 – 15 minutes to reflect or discuss

9

Who is worship for?

- God first
- A local gathered group of people
- A diverse group from mixed backgrounds



10

What should worship be like?

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| • Inspiring | • Symbols |
| • User-friendly | • Rhythm and repetition |
| • Engaging | • Visible ritual |
| • Rich | • Invisible ritual |
| • Formative | • Movement and action |
| • Embodied | • Ministry to one another |

Everyone journeying together with a sense of direction and flow

11

No one size fits all

Know your own context:

- Multi-benefice or mission partnership
- Small congregation, big church
- Intergenerational
- Authenticity within each local context



12

Questions to think about

- Who makes up your regular local congregation?
- What might appropriate and authentic worship look like in your context?

Press pause and take 10 – 15 minutes to reflect or discuss

13

Basic structure

We need

- A framework
- The essentials
- An imaginative design



14

Raw ingredients

- Scripture Readings (Luke 4. 16 – 21)
- Teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer (Acts 2.42)
- Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5. 19; Col. 3.16)
- Prayers of Penitence (Luke 18. 10 - 14)
- The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6. 9 – 13)
- Actions and gestures: Kneeling to pray (Acts 21. 5)
A holy kiss (1 Cor. 16. 20)
Raising hands in prayer (1 Tim. 2. 8)

15

Imaginative design

Deep structures

- Clear sense of direction
- Transparency
- Creativity



Building for the future

- Upwards
- Outwards
- Forwards



16

Questions to think about

- What are the basic structures you use in regular worship?

Try jotting down the framework from memory including all the basic ingredients

- What might create a more imaginative design?

Press pause and take 10 – 15 minutes to reflect or discuss

17

**Transforming
Worship**



Thank you for using this *Transforming Worship* resource

Additional materials to accompany this session are available online as downloadable pdfs

Please join us for Part 2: Patterns of Worship

To find out more about *Transforming Worship*, visit our website at www.transformingworship.news

18
