

Encountering God in Worship

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faithful · confident · joyful



John's Easter



**When was the last time you were
'lost in wonder, love and praise'?**



A theological rationale for worship as encounter

**What is *the* key motif in
OT theology?**

- Covenant?
- Heilsgeschichte?*
(Salvation History)
- Myth and Ritual?



**What is *the* key motif in
OT theology?**

**Samuel Terrien –
*The Elusive Presence***



A God present among his people



Exodus 33



An angel just isn't good enough

If you won't go with us, we're not going!

How else will we be any different?



'The presence of the Lord' in the OT:

Gen 4	Cain
Dt 12ff	Worship
1 Sam 11	Saul
2 K 17	Exile of the N Kingdom
Jer 7, 23	Exile of the S Kingdom
Psalms	
Ezek 10	The 'glory' departs
Ezek 43	The 'glory' returns
Ezek 48	'The Lord is there'
Mt 1:23	'Immanuel' – God with us
Mt 28:20	With you always

**A new slant on Pentecost**

The gift of the Holy Spirit makes real this OT promise

G Fee: *God's Empowering Presence*

'The Church is the community indwelt by the Spirit of God'

**What does this mean for worship?**

What God does for us –
Encounter etc

Worship

What we do for God –
Liturgy etc

**B J Cooke – *The Distancing of God***

What God does for us –
Encounter etc

Worship

What we do for God –
Liturgy etc

**Looking at OT Worship:**

All the attention is on our work,
none on the second!

D E Gowan:

**'The most important thing that is
happening cannot be seen
or heard'**

**Looking at our worship**

Both are meant to be there:

B Leisch:

**'I can't pray any more,
but I can say the words'**



Reconnecting with God:

Reformation	through Scripture
Oxford Movement	through splendour
Liturgical Movement	through accessibility
Evangelical Awakening	through personal conversion
Charismatic Renewal	through immediacy of the Spirit

How can we *expect* to meet with God?
How can we *facilitate* meeting with God?



How can we facilitate encounter with the God who is present?

3 key factors:

- Planning
- Presidency
- Response



Planning

More later, but ...



It takes time, effort and skill

Anti-liturgical Anglicans:

Has *CW* deskilled worship leaders?



Planning Presidency

Leading worship,
or getting through an agenda?

The art of worship leading isn't about
reading texts from a book ...

... it's about what you say and do
between the texts



The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts
With lift them to the Lord



Between the texts ...

Airholes

'Rubrics'

Encouragement

Answering the question 'Why?'



Planning
Presidency
Response

If the Lord *is* here,
and his Spirit *is* with us...

What are we going to do about it?

People meet God more in worship
through what they *do*
than through what they hear,
sing or say.



But how?

