

WORSHIP as CELEBRATION

February 26, 2025

WORSHIP: Supreme honor or veneration given in thought or deed to a person or thing. God alone is worthy of worship. (**Psalms 29:2, Revelation 4:11**). We are created to worship God. God is to be worshipped in spirit and truth, (**John 14: 24**). Worship is individually telling God you love God. It is the act of loving God. It is intense admiration of God. When we turn our hearts towards God, and away from others, true worship will begin. (Webster's Dictionary and Understanding Music and Worship)

COMPONENTS OF WORSHIP:

- Worthy – only God is worthy of our praise – Rev. 4:8-11
- Obedience – 1 Sam 15:22-23, offering 1 Chron 16:29, Lev 7:12
- Reverence – Heb 12:28, Respect – Matt 21:37
- Singing – 11 Chron 20:21, Eph 5:19-20, Service 1 Chron 23:28-30
- Honor – John 5:23, Holiness Ex. 15:11
- Instrument – Ro 6:13, Intimate Relationship Ps 27:5
- Praise – 1 Chron 23:5, Ps 150 and Public Expression – Lev 7:12

CELEBRATION: To honor or praise publicly, to commemorate with ceremony or festivity.

COMPONENTS OF CELEBRATION:

- Excitement - Ps 150, Matt 5:12
- Joyful - Ps 100:1-2. Ps 95:1-2
- Singing – Eph 5:19, Ps 96:1-2
- Dancing – Ex. 15:20, 11 Sam 6:14, Ps 149:3
- Festivity - II Sam 6:15
- Honor – Rev. 4:10-11
- Public praise (Witnessing) Acts 16:25-30

WE ARE TO CELEBRATE GOD: We worship God for who God is in our lives. It is a privilege to worship God. We are to be in awe, wonder and amazement of God.

If God does not applaud when we worship, it doesn't matter if everybody else applauds. If God does not say, "well done" we haven't worshipped. (what matters most by Tony Evans)

We ought to praise God continually - Acts 2:23

Through our music and singing we show love to God. II Cor 6:10, Ps 34:1

God is to be glorified and magnified, and not us. John 12:23, Ps 34:3, Matt 5:16

Symbols of worship and their meanings: Another, probably more obvious reason, has been the lack of adequate instruction on the meaning and biblical background of symbols. This article is designed to clarify the meaning of some of the primary symbols utilized in liturgy.

1. **Baptismal Front:** This area needs to have high visibility. Baptism is an outward testimony of an inward conviction or change of heart and should never be considered a private ceremony; rather, the whole community participates in celebration and fellowship.
2. **Altar or Communion Table:** Usually the center of worship, the table holds the Communion elements, utensils, the candles, and the cross.
3. **Candles:** Symbolizing the presence of Christ who is the light of the world, candles are lit at the beginning of communion worship and extinguished at the conclusion.
4. **Cross:** The central symbol of our faith, the cross must be displayed in every sanctuary. It is not a crucifix but an empty cross – a constant reminder of Christ’s sacrifice for our sake.
5. **Paraments (ornaments):** These are cloths that are displayed in front of the Communion table, the pulpit, and the lectern. They are coordinated in color and design.
6. **Banners:** As with the paraments, banners may be created in a variety of colors to fit the seasons of the liturgical year. They may feature Christian symbols or short Bible verses and are placed in highly visible locations.
7. **Vestments:** This is the official attire of the clergy and of those leading in worship. In the Protestant tradition, the most common has been the robe. The stoles symbolize ordination and vary in color, according to the liturgical year, you will notice these colors in our sanctuary:
 - Advent** – purple or blue
 - Christmas** – white - Gold
 - Epiphany** – white - Gold
 - Lent** – purple
 - Easter** – white
 - Pentecost** – red
 - Season of Mourning or Lament** - Black
 - Season after Pentecost- Ordinary Times** – green
 - Joy** - Pink
8. **Passing Peace:** This is a symbol of love, reconciliation, fellowship and unity. Meet and greet and benediction.
9. **Anointing:** This is particularly appropriate during healing services and other dedication services of consecration and ordination. Pure olive oil is recommended. The leader anoints the person’s forehead, simply with a touch, or by making the sign of the cross and repeating appropriate words, such as, "In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," or some other word for a specific purpose.
10. **Liturgical Dance:** This is a symbolic expression of praise, comparable to the choir. When it is done properly, a liturgical dance can enhance the worship experience.

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