



Core Value: Worship

"Tending the Orchard"

Fall 2016 Sermon Series

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100

Have you ever felt like not going to worship on a Sunday morning? Or, have you ever thought to yourself, "I got nothing out of that worship service!" I'm sure at some time or other, all of us have felt that way. As your pastor, I want very much for you to be spiritually renewed and fed when you are worshipping. Even though worship is not really about you. Or me.

Worship is about God. Worship is our expression of thanksgiving to God. Worship is at the center of what we do as a church. It draws us closer to God in faith as we are inspired, challenged and moved. Worship provides us with an experience of the Holy Spirit that engages our senses and leads us to offer ourselves for God's purposes. Through music, word, and sacrament we glorify God and find nourishment for our souls.

Worship is about God—but it's also about our need to offer praises to God. We need an outlet for our thanksgiving and worship provides as the opportunity to do so publically, collectively. Did you know that there's a whole book in the Bible that is full of songs of praise to God? The word psalm means song. The Book of Psalms is full of songs that offer praise to God and thanksgiving to God. There are even psalms of lament, but even those end with a word of thanksgiving. Many of the psalms are written by King David who offered them to God in times of celebration and struggle. I encourage you to use them in your own time of worship and devotion.

Worship is about God—but it's also about our need to offer praises to God.

The vision team has identified worship as a core value for our church. At our very core is a desire to honor God through offering our praises. As a church, we seek to create worship that honors God and inspires God's people to grow in faith and discipleship as we celebrate together on Sunday mornings. Like King David, even in our times of lament, we still find ways to say thank you to God through our worship.

My prayer is that worship will always inspire you to praise and adoration in thanksgiving for all God has done.

Questions for Reflection:

- Can you think of a time when you were moved in worship? Why were you moved?
- Do you ever put up roadblocks to fully participating in worship? If so, why? If not, how do you ensure you are staying open?
- What gifts do you have to contribute to our worship?

Prayer

May my offerings of worship be a blessing to you O God, for you have richly blessed me.
Amen.