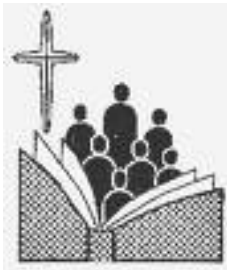


It's All About Worship Understanding the Worship Service

Introduction



Why do we as Christians worship? It has been said that worship means "giving the Lord the glory due his name". Worship is at the heart of any Christian community. We gather together to give thanks to God for the gifts of life and grace, for the freedom to gather together in praise and worship of God's holy name. However, as we go through the practice of worship each Sunday morning here at First Union Presbyterian church, how many of us truly understand the real meaning behind each component of the worship service? Our praises and thanks to God are certainly enhanced by music, scriptures, and the sermon, but without the full comprehension and appreciation of all aspects of the worship service, we may be missing out on a truly divine opportunity to experience God.

The worship service is the primary means for the congregation to corporately offer its praise to God. The Presbyterian Book of Order, in *The Principles and Elements of Public Worship*, tells us that "A service of public worship is not merely a gathering of God's children with each other, but before all else, a meeting of the triune God with His chosen people." In her article *Presbyterian Beliefs*, Anne Meredith Wilson says, "As Christians, Presbyterians believe that worship is praising and glorifying God. We also believe that God acts mightily in worship in that the Holy Spirit moves in us for redemption, understanding, and power. In worship we acknowledge God's presence in the world and in our lives, we learn about God's purpose for us, and we offer ourselves to the service of God in the world." Kevin J. Navarro tells us in his book *The Complete Worship Service*, "god gives us a taste of heaven when we worship with the body of Christ. We celebrate with God's people what Christ has done for us."



Over the next several months, the FUPC Worship Committee will be offering in the Post a series of articles which examine the meaning and significance of each of the components which make up our weekly worship service. Topics we will cover will include:

- Preparing for worship
- Prayer in the worship service
- Reading of the Holy Scripture
- Praising God through music
- Preaching the Word
- The Offering
- Bearing the Word into the world

It is the hope of the Worship Committee that you enjoy our series on the worship service, and that as we learn together, we deepen our worship skills, and our worship experience becomes more meaningful.

The Worship Committee