

True Worship

In the Old Testament, God laid down strict requirements for worship. The Mosaic law described in meticulous detail how the worshiper was to offer sacrifice and keep himself ceremonially clean. The holy of holies, where God dwelt, could be entered only once a year by the high priest, and only after an elaborate ritual. Anyone entering the holy place in any other way would die.

With the New Testament came a new freedom. The apostle Peter declared that all these rules had been a yoke that the Israelites had been unable to bear (Acts 15:10). Besides, the sacrifices and rituals of the Old Covenant could only provide ceremonial cleansing; they could not cleanse the soul. But now the perfect sacrifice has been made once and for all by Christ; now sanctification would occur through God's indwelling spirit; now the veil to the holy of holies has been torn from top to bottom, opening the way to God for all who would worship him in spirit and in truth.

But new freedom doesn't mean God expects less purity or less care in worship. It means the New Testament saint, through the Holy Spirit, now has a maturity in his worship that the Old Testament believer lacked. The Old Testament believer was like a child who had to be led by numerous rights and ceremonies; the New Testament believer is now an adult. Because of the fuller revelation of God in Christ, we can now do without all the prescriptions and props of Old Testament worship.

New Testament worship is to be from the heart; but that doesn't mean we may worship God as we happen to be inclined. The true worship of the heart is according to God's will, not our own.

The true worshipper doesn't come to God simply as he wills. He searches the Word of God in order to worship in spirit and in truth.

*God is spirit, and
those who worship
him must worship
in spirit and in
truth.*

John 4:24

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 76

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 32

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”***CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE**

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
 nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 78

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 225

“Once in Royal David's City”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:35-38

Sermon

NEW RULES

*Hymn of Response # 203

*“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”***THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. Potluck luncheon following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sunday, November 17. The Berkeley Half Marathon will be run which will result in street closures and detours at various locations in the City of Berkeley. I-80 freeway exits for University Ave. will be closed from 6:00am-12:00pm. Please see the enclosed map for street closure and detour information.

Sundays, November 17 and 24. Thank Offering 2024-*Rejoice in the Lord Always*. Each year the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church sets a Worldwide Outreach budget for the following year which represents the denomination's commitment to missionary and educational work. Each year the denomination has a Thank Offering to help meet that budget. If you wish to designate your gift for the Thank Offering, you may simply mark your check “Thank Offering.”