

The Service of Worship

We call our Sunday morning public gatherings worship services. The worship part we more or less understand. In worship we bow our heads and hearts before our God and Maker, our Redeemer and King. The word *worship* is a fusion of “worth” with the suffix “ship.” In worship we ascribe “worth” to God; we celebrate his “worth-ship.”

But what is the service all about? When we perform a service, we generally do something that is helpful to another, that fills a useful function to someone or some group. Occasionally service takes the form of an externally required duty, as when men used to be drafted to “serve” in the army. Such service was not usually what men would naturally have chosen, but when called they went.

Our worship is likewise a “service” to God; it promotes his honor and glory. We cannot add to or detract from God's honor and glory in any material sense. God is what he is without any help from us; our refusal to honor him can take nothing away from his essence. But to serve God is what a rational creature is made to do. To serve him in the sense of ascribing “worth” to him is simply giving God what is his due. Not to worship him is to live a lie. It is to suggest that we can live independently of the one to whom we owe all the goodness of our creation and preservation. It is to rob God of the acknowledgment that rational creatures are designed to give, and transfer it instead to created things.

Make no mistake. All human beings will worship. The question is what or whom they will worship. It will be either the God who made them or a god they themselves make. People even—perhaps mainly—worship themselves.

Sin has made the worship of God distasteful to man in his fallen nature. We are opposed to ascribing worth to the God who made us. Yet Jesus told the woman of Samaria that God is actively looking for worshippers—those who will worship him “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). What God seeks, he sovereignly provides. He must capture our wills before we can willingly make them his. In this sense, we are drafted into service. Left to ourselves, we go our own way. In mercy, God has done what was impossible for us; he has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of his Son. With our spiritual eyes now open, we can give back to God what we owe him, both individually and corporately—the service of worship that is rightfully his.

Praise the LORD, O My Soul

Psalms 146:1

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 55

“To God Be the Glory”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 31

“Have You Not Known, Have You Not Heard”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 281

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

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 # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 32:1-8

Sermon

BEHOLD A KING WILL REIGN

*Hymn of Response # 81

“O Love of God, How Strong and True”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Schedule Change: There is no Tuesday Bible study this week. The Bible study resumes on Tuesday, May 27.

Monday July 7-Friday, July 11. Summer Camp at Redwood Christian Park, Boulder Creek. Dr. James N. Anderson will speak on “War of the Worldviews: Defending the Faith in a Pluralistic Culture.” More information and an online registration form are available on the Presbytery's website: <https://pncnopc.org/summer-camp/>.