

HOW WE WORSHIP

Psalm 98 & Colossians 3:16-17

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does it mean to renew your faith? Why is it important? In what ways do you do this?
- What elements would you say are necessary for worship that is both pleasing to God and satisfying to us?

How often do you reflect on the elements of a worship service and their purpose? Taking time to think about why we do what we do brings us back to what is important. Comparing these reflections to scripture helps us determine which aspects are essential to how we worship and which aspects aren't and thus can be unique to each community. Through this process we can learn much about God and ourselves, while discovering worship that is both pleasing to God and satisfying to us.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Have you ever witnessed praise, either spoken or sung, that made God 'bigger' for someone else? Can you recall a moment where praise made God 'bigger' for you? What was that experience like?
- Would you say your current worship experiences feel like a gift from God or a requirement to complete? Why? What might need to change?
- Why do you think it matters that God does not NEED, but rather INVITES our worship? What does this tell you about the nature of God?
- Reflect on a recent or typical worship service you've experienced. Where do you see evidence or recognition of each person of the Trinity? Do you find that your church or community tends to emphasize one person of the Trinity more heavily? Why do you think that is?
- Describe your experience with sacraments in worship. How does your worshiping community celebrate them? What type of preparation for or explanation of the sacraments do you receive during worship? How would you describe their role in worship, compared to that of music and preaching? What do these observations tell you about how your church understands the meaning of the sacraments and the importance or value they have in your church's worship life?

Related Passages

- **Psalm 100**
- **John 17**
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
- **Acts 2:37-39**

Conclusion

Read Psalm 96:1-9. Reflect on the conversations that took place in this program between hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee with Sue Rozeboom regarding music, preaching, and the sacraments. Consider how their observations and your reflections about the elements of worship match up with the calls of Psalm 96 to sing, declare, honor, ascribe, and worship the Lord. Also consider and note how the gospel is told and shared through each of the elements of worship. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's gift and invitation to worship.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/how-we-worship>

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