

Spiritual Inventory: Week Three (Sept. 24, 2017)

#1) Spiritual Practices: Part II - Worship

This is Pastor's Bills' tally of all your 24 responses

1. Why do we worship God? What do you think is the purpose of worship?

To Openly Share our faith with others
To make us better people
To become more like Jesus, strengthen us to do God's work, raise consciousness
To enjoy our company, do good for them and community, believe and share the glory of God
To promote values of Bible, create fellowship
To understand God and God's love & grace, share it truth and salvation
To maintain our spirituality and cleanse mind, body, and spirit
To be mindful of God and serve him by helping others
To give thanks for God's gifts (life, friends, family)
To get me through the week
To keep us close to God

To respond to God's gift in Christ, draw closer to God
To build ourselves and others in Christ's Spirit and love; learn God's words and path
To deepen our awareness of the divine; join together as a community, learn. To support each other as a community of God.
To show our devotion, ask for guidance and understanding
To praise, honor, respect; receive strength and forgiveness.
For fellowship and support this beautiful church structure.
?- Offer gratitude, personal growth
Find faith and believe in God's words
**Three people left blank or were unsure

An interesting array of responses! Most are God-centered, a few are Trinitarian (using Christ and Spirit); a few are about the ordinary, human benefits of worship.

2. Consider all the following possible feelings you might have from worship. Put a ✓ next to feelings or attitudes you regularly or occasionally get, and a star (*) next to those that are most important to you.

Love for God	Comfort
Humility	Conviction
Boldness	Mystery
Awe of God; presence of holiness	Readiness to serve
Love for humanity	[Gratitude]
Assurance	Other:

Terms of personal benefit (comfort, etc) were popular, but so were service terms (Love, Readiness to serve) and Divine-centeredness (Awe, Mystery). We have a pretty good mix here.

3. Which works best for you: “low” (informal) worship or “high” (formal, sacramental) worship? Why?

Low- 11

High- 5

Mix or in the middle: 7

A significant preference for low liturgy, but also a good mix. One former Catholic cited that background as reason for preferring low; another cited the same reason for preferring high! One person wished for communion every week. I am mindful of the majority’s preference for informality, but I also believe in drawing on formal, sacramental liturgy if it can restore to us a sense of God’s loftiness and majesty, and sometimes, our own smallness.

4. What are the most powerful and important parts of worship to you? Circle the most important; put a (respectful) line through those that are not important.

Prelude/postlude

Lighting of candles & Introit

Call to Worship

Congregational hymns (all)

Prayer of Confession & Gloria

Passing of Peace

Reading of Scripture

Message for All Ages

Anthem

Sermon

Communion

Prayers of the People

Offering

Some circles all of the parts as important; others only some. But every part was circled by someone as important. So it would probably be a mistake to eliminate anything.

5. What could we do to make the less important parts more meaningful and powerful? What can *you* do or what would you need help with to find more meaning in them?

Many left this blank—perhaps because it came last, perhaps because you are not used to being asked in a survey what you should do about it! But one sought an explanation for “the purpose of rituals/routines;” another commented “I need more study and understanding of the Scriptures.” Aside from continuing with Bible Study, perhaps I could write a pamphlet for the pews that offers a way to think about the meaning of each part.

Other comments:

There were comments on the sermons, which I will incorporate into the Inventory on Sermons.

One person suggested mixing up the order might make us think about it more deeply.

One person prefers not using Psalms for the Call to Worship. (I wonder if others feel the same.)