

# Theology of Worship

<u>Worship is... Incarnational</u>	<u>Worship is... Being Helpless</u>	<u>Worship is... Christ Centered</u>	<u>Worship is... Our Response to God</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John 1:14</li> <li>• John 20:19-20</li> <li>• 1 John 4:10</li> </ul> <p><i>In worship God reveals Himself to us. God comes to us (i.e. Word and Sacraments). Our worship is never used to conjure up God's presence. Worship does not initiate God to work in our lives. God does not need our effort in worship. Rather God does the effort in coming to us. God begins our worship experience through the declaration of scripture in that He has already come to us, lived for us, died for us and rose for us. God does the heavy lifting! God does the verbs! God is alive and has spoken by the actions of the cross!</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luke 18:13</li> <li>• Isaiah 6:5</li> <li>• Psalm 51:17</li> </ul> <p><i>The more we encounter God as Holy, high and exalted, the more we will recognize our utter sinfulness and be driven to helplessness under the Cross. Our helplessness, our broken spirit and our contrite heart are sacrifices to God. God does not despise our brokenness. What pleases God more than sacrifices is a humble heart. Therefore, we do not have to perform or polish ourselves before God in order to worship. We do not need to work ourselves up to a certain spiritual state in order to praise him.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippians 2:10</li> <li>• John 4:24</li> <li>• Matthew 4:10</li> </ul> <p><i>Worship centers on and around the person of Jesus Christ. God 'initiates' worship in the heart of the believer by the very fact that he sent Jesus to accomplish salvation. God also 'receives' worship in the fact that he is the one that is worthy of praise. In Worship, God is both the 'subject' and the 'object' of worship. Worship is not man centered... Man is merely a part of this circle of worship. Man is a part of this glorious 'dance' with a God that is love. Christ centered worship embraces three things: a Holy God, Fallen Man and a Savior that Reconciles.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew 2:11</li> <li>• Luke 2:10-20</li> <li>• 1 John 4:19</li> </ul> <p><i>Worship is our response to God's gift of Salvation in the Word and Sacraments. Our praises are a response for the very things we have heard, seen and know from scripture. When the wise men 'saw' Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped him. When the Shepherds saw Christ, they responded in glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Worship is not entertainment in the eyes of God, but rather a free response of love to a God that first loved us.</i></p>

