



## A WORSHIPPING SACRIFICE

It's not always easy to sing songs of worship. Sometimes we need help to even think about singing! Yet, as we choose to make those sacrifices, we realise that our hearts are being turned towards the Father. We begin to see our place in the Fathers' big story – how He cares for us, no matter what our circumstance.

The story in Isaiah 6 v 1-8 helps us see how worship truly changes who we are, and how we respond to the Father. Isaiah is in an awful situation where disaster seems to be everywhere. During this time Isaiah has a vision which takes him to the throne room of heaven, where He sees the Lord. His first impression is that of the utter holiness of God. Isaiah's second impression is of his own sin, his own unrighteousness before God, and that of those around him. He is changed by a touch of heaven: his guilt is taken away, his sins atoned for. The Father calls Isaiah to live for Him and Isaiah responds to the call which changes his life forever. Our worship is just like that. Even as we see the beautiful holiness of the Father and the Son, we also see our hopeless position. And yet, because of Jesus, we are now in a direct relationship with the Father, and we can stand in His presence in Christ Jesus. Our status has changed.

And how do we respond? Who will go and tell? From our corporate worship, we are sent back into the world to:

1. Impact our communities – through social justice, evangelism, friendship, random acts of love etc;
2. Bring value to people who believe that they have no value – to love them as God loves us;
3. Bring security to those who seem to have no security – if we are rooted, we can help those who are not;
4. Bring worship to the Father and the Son – giving glory to the one who loves us so much.



## BEING PRACTICAL ABOUT WORSHIP

***“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! PRAISE THE LORD!”*** - Psalm 150 v 6

Worship is not just about singing. It's so much more and there are so many different ways of expressing our worship. In this leaflet, it would be impossible to begin to list all the various ways you could express your worship, but here are some examples:

1

Having a living relationship with the Father and Son through the Holy Spirit. We can do this by reading, meditating and applying the Bible to our lives.

2

Our obedience to the Father is an expression of our worship (John 14 v 15). Our love for the Father will always lead us to follow His commandments.

3

We can use all sorts of creativity to express personal worship: singing, dancing, meditation, writing, art and music. These just begin to scratch the surface of creativity. Even our daily responsibilities of work, parenting, caring for others and much more are to be done for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10 v 31).

4

Worship anyway, everywhere, anytime! In the car, at work, playing games – whatever it is you're doing, you can worship the Father and the Son. Worship isn't just for set days of the week or times of the day.

5

Read good books about the Father and the Son and listen to great worship music.

Finally, keep coming together with other Christians to worship, to hear from God and bring your gift! We're not meant to be individuals in our small corners – we're meant to be a living, growing and loving community, expressing our worship together!



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## OUR VISION

The Vision of King's Church Cockermouth is to Love Jesus and Make Him Known – we do this by:

Loving Jesus (**WORSHIP**)

Being secure in Christ (**ROOTS**)

Knowing who we are individually (**VALUE**)

Church in the Community (**IMPACT**)

***“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.”***  
- Ephesians 3 v 20-21.

Worship is our first calling in knowing God, He alone is worthy of all praise and glory! We can read about Worship all through the Bible; worship is the central theme when we consider the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It even includes its own hymn book (Psalms). Wherever you look in the Bible, worship is the key to our relationship with the Trinity:

1. Heaven resonates with worship (Revelation 4)
2. The Father seeks those who worship in spirit and truth (John 4v 23)
3. Offering ourselves as living sacrifices as our spiritual act of worship (Romans 12 v 1)
4. All things were made for God's glory (Ephesians 3 v 21)

Everyone has an inbuilt desire to worship. Anything or anybody that consumes our time, money, effort, and energy to the exclusion of our first love for God Himself can become an idol. The Westminster [Shorter] Catechism expresses well our prime purpose...***What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.***



## WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

***“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.”*** - Romans 12 v 1

*“Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to God for who He is and what He has done: expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.”* - Louie Giglio

In Romans 12, Paul talks about the lifestyle of Christians. He directly links our worship of the Father with the way that we live our lives. We are reminded about the journey that Jesus has taken us on, in His mercy, to bring us into His family. We are included and are now 'in Christ'. As Christians we are all part of one body, we all have gifts and contributions to serve with. The body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Ephesians 4 v 16). Each part matters and as we honour what God is doing in others, so we honour Him.

There are many things we can do to show our love and worship of the Father. The list in Romans 12 is really helpful in understanding how we can worship the Father through our lifestyle. For example, sharing things with God's people who are in need reminds us that as all things came from God in the first instance. Sharing with others imitates God's actions with us. We give because the Father gives – without favour, without strings, without expecting anything back. It's a demonstration of grace – and as we understand the lavishness of grace in our lives, we give lavishly, enjoying the same pleasure God takes in unlimited, unmerited giving.

Living, giving and serving others as God intended is an act of worship which tells others where our focus is. And as we do this, the amazing thing is that others somehow acknowledge the Father.



## CHRIST-CENTRED WORSHIP

***“For in him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things...”*** - Colossians 1 v 19

Throughout his ministry, Jesus is always directing us to the Father. He tells us that if we want to know what the Father looks like, we should look at the Son (Jesus). The New Testament makes it clear that Jesus has become Emmanuel - God with us (God revealed in a human) that Jesus is fully God AND fully man. It is also clear that the Holy Spirit is always directing us to the Son.

As a result, we are privileged to worship the Father and the Son. And so, our worship should be Christ Centred. This starts with our lifestyle: as we follow Jesus, we become more like Him. The Holy Spirit is continuously shaping us to be more Christ like.

Colossians 1 v 15-23 is a glorious hymn of praise about Jesus the Son. It draws our attention away from ourselves and our circumstances, it lifts our eyes from our world to look at the one who created it. Our corporate worship should reflect this Christ-Centred view.

We love to sing songs about Jesus, songs that describe:

- who He is
- what He has done
- how He works in our lives
- how our status has changed because of Him.

And because of Him, our worship elevates us away from our concerns, our circumstances and our own self-perception.

When we worship corporately, we anticipate that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts (1 Cor. 12) which always lead us to Jesus. It is no wonder that each time we meet together in worship, we are changed to be more like Jesus.