



What happens when we go to worship?



To God be the glory Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father Through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory Great things He has done
O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives
Praise the Lord...
Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see
Praise the Lord

O come to the Father Through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory Great things He has done!

We give thanks ...

- ... that the Christian faith is not an organisation or a system of ethics
but a relationship with You the living God
- ... that we do not struggle to earn our favour with You
but come in response to Your invitation
- ... that we are not just hoping that things will work out for us
but come on the basis of what You have done for us defeating death and evil.



Help us that our contact with You be real
and then that our contact with others may reflect that real contact with You.
Through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Saviour
to Whom with You and the Holy Spirit be all praise and glory now and for ever AMEN

What happens when we go to worship ?

An example from the Old Testament

Background of injustice - chapter 1 verses 15-17

When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.
Your hands are full of blood!

Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

While the people kept the formalities of religion going
there was injustice in society and the weakest were exploited or ignored.

They got the gracious invitation from God chapter 1 verse 18

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

and look at what happened when Isaiah went to worship chapter 6.1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

1 I to the hills will lift mine eyes,
from whence doth come mine aid.
My safety cometh from the Lord,
who heav'n and earth hath made.

3 The Lord thee keeps, the Lord thy shade
on thy right hand doth stay:
The moon by night thee shall not smite,
nor yet the sun by day.

2 Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will
he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps

4 The Lord shall keep thy soul; he shall
preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
God keep for ever will.

What do we learn ?

1. Aware of God's presence

Word picture of greatness of God
Holy

2. Admission of his plight

Honest - admitted he was messed up

3. Acceptance of God's plan

availability for God.

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength, my shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.



I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
You alone

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.
You alone ...

**But that was a long time ago -
what can we learn in the New Testament for us now ?**

1 Corinthians 15.1-8, 55-58

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

What do we learn ?

1. Victory has been won

Experience based on evidence

not made up - evident to be examined

Feelings based on facts

not dry information, for we deal with a living God!

2. Vision that follows

Personal relationship

response to God's invitation

Permanent dimension

this is the note of security

Practical dynamic

work of the Lord - available for God to use.



Perhaps you know the story of the wee boy who saw a bride going into church with her father, and half an hour later the bride coming out with a much younger man :

"What a difference happens to folk in the church - I must go there"

Do we come out the same as we go in?

or are we so allowing God to make such a difference that others want to meet with God?

Be at work in our lives, we pray, so that others see the difference you can make.
We look back on the past week, praying ...
and looking forward to next week, we pray ...



We pray for those who seek to be your people where things are difficult...
... in supporting children and young people who have been suffering abuse
... in traumatic situations like Afghanistan and Yemen
... in countries where Christians are put to the end of the queue for food and employment and
where their children are denied a senior education.

This week we pray particularly for the situation in Ukraine, praying for a peaceful solution
and for Your wisdom for the presbytery and kirk session as they seek the way ahead.

through Jesus Christ our Lord Who taught us to pray ... Our Father

154.vv1,4

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout The universe displayed,
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow In humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"
Then sings ...