

## Family Service

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SENTENCES AND CALL:**

**PRAYER (Invocation):**

**PRAISE:** 528 O Worship the King all glorious above

**PRAYER (Confession and thanks):**

**READINGS:** Psalm 95: 1-7 (page 602)

Romans 12: 1-2 (page 1139)

**PRAISE:** King of Kings, Majesty

**ALL-AGE TALK: 'Why Worship?'**

**PRAISE and OFFERING:** 40 Ascribe Greatness to our God the rock

**PRAYER (Offering and Intercession):**

**PRAISE:** 506 O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder

**BENEDICTION:** The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; be with us all evermore.

## All-Age Talk- 'Why Worship?'

### **Intro:**

Why do we come to church? Why has God gathered a group of people together on the East Coast of Ireland from many different nations around the world? What is our *raison d'être*?

Over the next 4 weeks I want to spend some time looking at what our priorities should be as a church- a group of people who love and serve Jesus Christ.

The first reason that God has gathered us together is to worship. But what is worship? And why should we worship?

The word 'worship' originally comes from the Saxon word 'weorthscipe' which eventually became known as 'worthship'- the acknowledgement of worship. In other words, to worship something means to acknowledge it's true worth, to give it honour and glory, to express how it actually is in all its specialness and worthiness.

As Christians we choose to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But why worship God? Why acknowledge Him for all His worthiness. I think as we look at who He is revealed to be in the world and in scripture that it will become clear.

### **Game:           What is God like?**

Invite children to come up and burst a balloon. Inside you will find a word used in the bible to describe God. If someone in church can tell me what the word means then they will win you and themselves a small bar of chocolate or a sweet.

Creator, Sovereign, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Aseity, Transcendent, Holy, Wise, Judge, Just, Love

### **Why Worship?**

When we think about just how awesome God is. When we think about how perfect He is. When we think about the fact that one day we will meet him. When we think that despite all He knows about us that He loves us more than we can ever know and wants us to have a real friendship with Him....How should we respond?

We should worship...

Notice true worship then involves both the mind and the heart. It's as we think about who God is and what He has done for us that deep within us wells the overwhelming desire to express His worthiness, to tell Him how He actually is, to give Him the glory and honour that He deserves.

As we read in Psalm 95, sometimes this worship will be expressed in shouts of 'Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!' Every time I hear the opening chords and drum beat of Ireland's call I can feel the hairs raise on the back of my neck. I'm not ashamed to

say that along with the rest of the family that 1 minute later we'll be singing so that the French fans in Croke Park can hear us! If we can get excited about our national team, then we're allowed at times in church to get excited about God and to shout aloud to the God of our salvation.

But we also read in Psalm 95 that worship was also expressed by awe and reverence. 'Let us bow down and kneel before the Lord our maker.' I'll never forget the crowds of people in Belfast on the day of George Best's funeral. In almost every home I visited that day almost to a person when I asked '*Is there anything you want to pray for?*' people replied- '*George Best's family.*' It is not an exaggeration to say that many people worshipped George. And on this day how did they acknowledge His greatness, as arguably the greatest footballer the world has ever seen? They lined the streets in silence, with heads bowed in respect.

Sometimes our worship will involve times of deep reverence and awe. Complete silence and deep meditation. Both responses are appropriate and necessary when we worship God.

But of course worship is not just about the expressions arising from our hearts that emerge from our lips. Worship is all about how we live our lives. True worship must be related to life. True worship will always express itself in obedience. That's why Paul writes in Romans 12, "*Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship.*" When we commit ourselves with the help of God's Spirit to living holy lives that are pleasing to God then we are worshipping God. All of life is lived in God's presence. All of life is spiritual. All of life can be worship.

Above all the lesson that we need to learn is that worship is putting God at the centre, giving Him the worthiness, the glory and the honour that He deserves. It is giving of ourselves and our praise to God. It is first and foremost something that we give to God, not something that we receive from Him. It is a turning from ourselves and gazing upon God in praise, adoration, confession and penitence, dedication and commitment.

Why worship? Because God alone is worthy of our worship.

What is worship? It is expressing to God the glory and honour that He deserves through praise and thanks, confession and repentance, celebration and silence, listening to what He has to say in His word. It is responding in grateful obedience to all that He is and all that He has done for us by living lives that will bring Him joy and bring Him honour.

This is the first reason that God has brought us together as a group of His people in this place. Our primary purpose as a church is summarise in these words-

*We want to praise God with our lips and honour Him with our lives.*

**Call:**

How great our God's riches! How deep are His wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain His decisions? Who can understand His ways? For all things were created by Him and all things exist through Him and for Him. To God be the glory forever!  
Amen.

**Invocation:**

You are the great God- He who is in heaven  
You are the creator of life, you make the regions above  
You are the hunter who hunts for souls  
You are the leader who goes before us  
You are He whose hands are with wounds  
You are He whose feet are with wounds  
You are He whose blood is a trickling stream  
You are He whose blood was shed for us

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as you have given your all for us in love and sacrifice, help us now to give you our fullest attention, our fullest praise and enable us to respond in fullest obedience. For the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

**Confession and thanks:**

Lord help us to face the truth about ourselves. Help us to hear our words as others hear them, to see our faces as others see them. Help us to be honest enough to recognise our impatience and pride, our anger and selfishness our hypocrisy and judgemental attitudes. Give us sufficient humility to accept our own weaknesses and the grace-in your presence- to say I was wrong, forgive me. Help us to hear and believe your words of comfort, "As far as the East is from the West, so far has Christ removed your transgressions from you."

We thank you that because Jesus has died and risen that in Him we are justified-declared not guilty in the courtroom of heaven. We thank you that because Jesus has ascended that your Spirit has come to live in us and help us to be the people that you want us to be. We thank you that your love for us is deeper than the deepest ocean. We thank you that you are in complete control of all our situations and will not allow us to go through any circumstance that we cannot face with your grace. We thank you for anything that happened this week that made us feel that life is worth living. We thank you also for those moments in which we saw the seriousness and meaning of life. We thank you for every difficulty that moulds us that little bit more into the likeness of Christ and bonds us closer together as a community. We thank you especially for those we love, for those who love us and for all the difference it makes to know them and the happiness it brings to be with them. We offer these prayers as one family in Christ saying together: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever, AMEN.

**Intercession:**

Sick, bereaved

All those who are doing exams

All who are working night and day to keep roads and services up and running in bad weather

All who work for our safety and wellbeing, Ambulance Drivers, Firefighters, Gards

**Offering:**

Lord we bring our gifts as an act of worship, thanking you for all your kindness to us.

With these gifts we also bring you the most important aspect of worship- ourselves.

Help us to do everything we do this week with you in mind and in a way that will bring you great joy and honour. In Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.