

“Passionate Worship” Weekly Readings

Each Day: Psalm 84: Blessed is the one who seeks God.

Monday: Exodus 8:1 Worship was the reason that God liberated the Hebrews

Tuesday: Luke 10:27 In worship people practice the highest command Jesus gave us.

Wednesday: Psalm 100:1-2 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. God desires our attention.

Thursday: Psalm 43 We will have times when we feel down, therefore we need reminders to keep our trust in God, who is faithful.

Friday: John 15:1-8 Worship connects us to the vine. It is only as we stay connected that we bear fruit.

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Poplar Grove UMC

“Passionate Worship”

Worship is when the people of God gather together to encounter, to meet with and to experience God.

This is the number one reason why we come to worship.

“Our goal is not to try and squeeze God into our lives, but to meld our lives into God’s.”

Worship is where we meet with God so that God can change us and conform us to be more like Him!

3 reasons why we worship?

1. We worship because God tells us to.

Exodus 8:1 “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”

The Greek word for church in the NT is “Ekklesia”. It means “a gathering of God’s people called out of the world.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind... Luke 10:27

2. We worship because God pardons our sin during worship.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance.

He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14

3. We worship because that is how we stay connected to the vine.

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the person who trusts in you.
Psalm 84:1-3, 10-12**

The challenge for some of us is that we come to worship and we don’t experience God’s presence and we wonder why?

The one common denominator in experiencing God in worship is how an individual prepares ahead of time before worship; including the worship team and the pastor. ☺

The bottom line of worship is that it begins with MY HEART.

The main way to experience and encounter God in worship is for each person to actively prepare his or her heart, mind, and soul before they get there.

Practicing the disciplines of prayer, fasting, study, confession, meditation during the week (as individuals) enhances and prepares us

for worship on Sundays as we the gathered Body of Christ comes together.

There are two types of worshipers that come to church?
Those who worship God and those who criticize those who are worshiping God!

Bishop Schnase says that ...”Many times we enter worship as if we are preparing a movie critique. We rate the sermon, the prayers, and the music to our own personal internal scale. How was the service? Well, the service was too long, the piano too loud, the children too noisy, and the room was too cold. Our attention turns to the imperfections, mispronounced words, missed cues, distracting noises, personal discomfort, the weaknesses of the leaders, and flaws of our fellow worshipers.”

One hour of Passionate Worship has the ability to change/transform all the other 167 hours in your week.

Let us commit to be:

- People who give our utmost for God’s glory
- People who gather to encounter God in our midst
- People who desire to hear God’s voice
- People who put what we learn - into practice
- People who worship God in spirit and in truth