



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP [part 4]

Over the past few weeks, I have taken you through some of the journey that I have been on since I started my doctoral program in Christian Worship. The series was derived from my first theological paper focusing on Christian Worship throughout the Old and New Testaments. The Scripture, along with the various quotes have helped shape my thoughts on *why* we worship. As the Creation story points out, we were created to be in relationship (communion) with God from the beginning. This final article of this 4-part series: 1) reminds us of the key thoughts from the past few weeks and 2) encourages us to think about several questions (I will talk more about these in the upcoming months).

Several key thoughts to remember from part 1:

Genesis 1 (select verses):

- 1) **"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gn 1:1). God then spoke and created all things *ex nihilo*, meaning "out of nothing." After creating the heavens and the earth, God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gn 1:26a). "So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him" (Gn 1:27a).**
- 2) Personal definition of Christian Worship:
Christian worship is communion with the Triune God in which believers, by faith in the redemptive work of Christ, center their minds attention and hearts affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his word.
- 3) From the Westminster Confession:
Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

4) Matthew 28:19:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Several key thoughts to remember from part 2:

1) Two quotes from Allen Ross:

“Creation has always been foundational to the faith of the worshipping community, not only because it displays the power and majesty of the Creator, but also because it provides the basis and even the pattern for God’s great work of redemption.”

“The worship of God, the Creator, is therefore also the worship of God, the Redeemer, for what God did in creation set the pattern not only for redemption but also for the worship of the redeemed.”

2) John 4:23-24 – True worship is authentic, from the heart:

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Several key thoughts to remember from part 3:

1) **Our corporate worship tells and enacts God’s story of Creation and Redemption.**

2) **Christian worship is God’s continual movement towards people and the people’s continual response.**

3) Romans 12:1b:

When corporate worship presents God’s story, worship will be rightly focused. The worshippers will be worshiping God in “spirit and truth” and they will be “a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

4) **God created humankind to be in communion with him, to reflect his glory.**

Thus, the journey continues . . .

Over the centuries and especially in recent years, the church has told God’s story in many ways. The content, style and context of worship varies from church to church and denomination to denomination. THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS: 1) *How I respond to God?* 2) *When do I respond to God?* 3) *Where do I respond to God?* and 4) *Who helps me respond to God?* Four simple questions can shed light on the **how**, **when**, **where**, and **who** (music, space, actions, and words).

First (music), the image of Christ is portrayed through the selection of music in which we, the congregation, sing and listen. The congregation must be exposed to more than one style of music, because we tend to limit God, and we limit our view of God when we have a small fount of resources to draw from. Though it is very important for the congregation to be exposed to

more than one style of music, the music must be theologically correct. There is a lot of great music in the world, and we need to be willing to draw from many sources.

Secondly (space), every member of the congregation has a different vantage point, and thus every part of the sanctuary lends way to those different vantage points. Our surroundings play a major part in our role in worship, for not only are the spoken words important but our seeing is equally important. Our relationship to the people around us and the people leading the service is vital, because our relationship to these people has a direct relationship with how we perceive all aspects of the service.

Thirdly (actions), all of the elements of worship play a major role in how the congregation sees Christ because the actions of worship can either help the congregation embody the message or not. The way in which the leadership carries themselves shows the congregation the level to which they believe what they are saying and doing. The setting of worship plays a huge role in the actions, because the physical surroundings and postures of the leadership weight heavily on the image that the body of Christ sees. This is where the visual impacts the mental picture.

Finally (words), the words of worship are more than the physically spoken text; they embody the visual and material aspects of worship. The words of worship must be able to be embraced by the entire body of Christ, because they are to be the words of the entire congregation. They must be understood and made personal, because the words of worship are communion with the Creator.

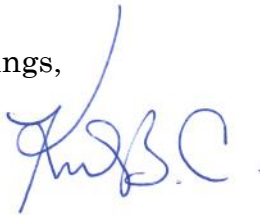
In conclusion, John Wesley stated in his *Selected Hymns* of 1761, “Sing spiritually! Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and renew you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.” The Apostle Paul writes these words to the Church in Rome, **“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”** (Rom 12:1-2).

Christ calls every believer to worship him, for he wants it all. This worship cannot be obtained once a week or even in an hour, but it is something that transpires from the moment Christ redeems our life. Our very existent, our chief end is as the Westminster Confession

states: **“Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.”**

Those well-known words from the Old Testament, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gn 1:1a), set forth a relationship between God the Creator and humankind the creation. It is in the Creation story (God’s story) that our worship of God was established. My definition and theology of worship is grounded in the Creation story: 1) our communion (community) with God was established, 2) the Trinity was unfolded and ultimately through the Fall of Man, 3) faith in redemptive work of Christ was revealed, and 4) creation responses to the revelation of God. **“Christian worship is communion with the Triune God in which believers, by faith in the redemptive work of Christ, center their minds attention and hearts affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God is response to his greatness and his word.”** *Soli Deo Gloria*

Blessings,



Kevin B. Chamberlain
Minister of Music

****For a list of works cited please speak with Kevin for a print or email copy of the article.****

SPRC Actions & Up-dates

Staffing Up-date

We are in the process of recruiting for a full-time **Pastor of Discipleship & Connections**. The Job Summary states . . . “The Pastor of Discipleship & Connections will lead the Small Group Ministries of Avenue UMC and other ministry functions that will nurture the church family in connecting to one another and to grow in their personal faith journey. They will develop, implement and maintain system(s) to assimilate persons new to the church into the life of the church.” If you know of someone that may be interested in this position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

We are also in the process of recruiting for a part-time position for a **Pastor of Congregational Care (Visitation)**. The Job Summary states . . . The Pastor of Congregational Care will lead the efforts of Avenue UMC in providing pastoral care and compassion to the Avenue church family. It is expected he/she will utilize the staff and the laity of the church in the ministry of pastoral care. If you know of someone that may be interested in this pastoral position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

Praise & Worship Team – while we are not currently recruiting for the Team Leader please know that this is a tremendous opportunity to serve our church. If you or someone that you may know have been blessed with musical talents, how about sharing those gifts with our church family.

Church Covenant

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has been working over the past year with Pastor Steve to create the Ministry Covenant of Avenue UMC. The concept of a “church covenant” between the laity and the clergy has been encouraged for all churches within our conference for the past few years. The attached covenant was approved by our Church Council on May 5, 2021. I urge you to review the Ministry Covenant and ask yourself how you will join, support, and/or lead in fulfilling the mission and ministries of Avenue UMC!

Please know that the vision and missional goals, as well as the expectations of the pastor and the congregation, are intended to be dynamic. They may well change and be enhanced from one year to the next. Please feel free to share your thoughts and comments with any member of the SPRC. While the SPRC members were instrumental in the drafting of this covenant, it serves as an agreement between the entire laity and the clergy of Avenue UMC. Together we all make up the body of Avenue Church and have the vital role of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our community in Christian love.

2021 YARD SALE

The summer is moving along and that means the Yard Sale is coming quickly!! Here is a list of all the important dates that you need to help us get ready.

Judy Struck (609) 319- 8082 judystruck@comcast.net

Sandy Culotta (302) 258-5787 swculotta@gmail.com

YARD SALE DATES AND TIMES:

Thursday, August 5th from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (\$1 entrance fee)

Friday, August 6th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 7th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY: Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary). We are streaming the morning worship services on our Facebook (facebook.com/avenueumc) and Youtube (youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch) pages.

GIVING AT AVENUE is possible through multiple ways.

- You can give your offering in-person
- You can snail mail your gift to: 20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963
- You can give online through the red “give” button on our homepage
- You can download and use our “Avenue Church DE” App on your smart phone

PASTORAL CARE: If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact a staff person directly. You can also email prayer@avenueumc.com to have your name added to the prayer chain. We are doing limited face-to-face visits during this time, but would be happy to make contact any way that we can.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Church Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We asked that you use the main entrance to access the office during business hours. All guest will need to buzz in on the intercom to be let in.

GIVING STATEMENTS for the second quarter April-June have been emailed. If you do not have email and would like a paper copy of your giving, please call Kelly at the church office and we will see that you get one. *Thanks, Harriet*

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY DREAM TEAM: As we prepare for the Fall and the discipleship that is taking place in our congregation, we want to invite those who are passionate about children’s and family ministry to join our Dream Team. This team will spend time in prayer and dreaming about how to best disciple our children and make our families the primary place of discipleship. If you are interested in learning more, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

SUMMER KICS: Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4th grade (Kids 5th grade and up can remain in the sanctuary and worship as a family). KICS Kids will be released to Wesley Room prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Wesley Room after worship.

Kids will be socially distanced and must wear a mask while in KICS. Activities will be appropriate for the time and there will be at least two adults helping with KICS. If you have questions about SUMMER KICS, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Patty Shockley at pws210@comcast.net. **Next class is on Sunday, August 8th.**

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS? As we continue to move towards a more open worship experience on Sunday morning, there will be additional opportunities to serve. We are seeking people who have passions and interest in serving in several areas to help continue to make Sunday Worship the best experience possible. Below are a few places we are creating or reshaping. If you are interested in serving in an area, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

- **Greeters:** Are the first line of contact for guest. Must be upbeat, helpful, and willing to make a great first impression.
- **Ushers:** Work inside the sanctuary to help guest find a seat, dismiss worshippers after service, help with a head count, and make worship a great experience by serving others. When appropriate, ushers will also assist with offering.
- **Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults of all ages to be on a list of back-ups to help our nursery staff when there is a vacation or illness. This ensures that our nursery stays open to serve families at both services.
- **Connection Center/Guest Services:** This is a new ministry area that will help connect new attenders to the life of the church. In this ministry, you will receive connect cards, answer questions about worship and the church, and help people get connected to ministries and opportunities for Spiritual Growth. To serve in this ministry, hospitality and a desire to connect is a must!
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for teachers/teacher assistants/youth helpers for Sunday School this year. All teaching materials and supplies are provided each week, all you will need is to bring your enthusiasm and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of the children at Avenue UMC. Sunday School is held during the 10:30 AM Contemporary Service and you can choose what week(s) you are available to help. We hope to have enough volunteers to ensure we have a pool of teachers/teacher assistants/youth helpers to serve on a rotating basis. If you feel led to help with the children's ministry, please contact us at: sundayschool@avenueumc.com. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6)

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY—UPDATE: The Milford Community Pantry thanks you for your gracious support. The pantry will be **closed August 6th** during the Yard Sale. Because of all the activity during the yard sale setup we ask you to hold donations to the pantry until August 9th. Thank You!

MILFORD LIONS CLUB: Milford Lions Club is collecting used eyeglasses. There is a donation box in the coat closet.

MEAL TRAIN AT AVENUE: Health Ministries is looking for folks in the Avenue family who like to cook and would like to prepare meals for those who are sick, who have had loved ones pass, or who have had new babies as a way to care for one another. We are using the website mealtrain.com to allow members to sign up. If you would like to receive emails when we need meals, you can email Sharon at sharonclendaniel@msn.com.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL: Avenue Preschool has an opening for a teacher in the beginners program. You must be certified in early childhood education to apply. The hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. with summers off. Please email your resume to office@avenuepreschool.org.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY | CHURCH TREASURER: If you have gifts in finances and accounting, Avenue is looking for a new church treasurer to begin the upcoming year. The person must be

knowledgeable in double entry accounting. There will be the opportunity to work with the outgoing Treasurer for training and assimilation. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS | CHILDREN'S THEATER AND THE PRETTY CRAZIES:

Avenue has two great opportunities to gather together. On **Sunday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.** The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theater will share with us their presentation of *Hansel and Gretel*. Then on **Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30 p.m.** *The Pretty Crazies and the Daddy Jam Band* will be rocking Avenue and getting everyone moving! The Felton Fire Company Ice Cream Trailer will be on hand at the August 11th event with ice cream for everyone. Both events are free and open to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening together!

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE SUSPENDED: The staff has made the decision to suspend the outdoor evening worship service, beginning this week. As our summer has progressed, participation at the evening outdoor service is lower than it was last July/August. We will continue to watch our local COVID numbers to determine whether or not to resume the worship service at a later date.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Summer Sunday School for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others, is meeting in the Grier Room at 10:15 a.m. The study for August is "The Five Stages of Job." The lesson for August 8th is "Resignation: based on Job 1:21-22, 2:7-10; August 15th is "Protest" based on Job 19:1-6, 13-19; August 22nd is "Angry Despair" based on Job 30: 16-23; August 29th is "Acceptance" based on Job 40:1-5, 41:1-10, 42:1-6. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.



Because oranges can be cut to make smiley and joyful mouths, they represent our second fruit of the spirit **“Joy”**.

Oranges have many health benefits. They are a good source of fiber, which helps with our digestive health. Oranges are a good source of vitamins and minerals,

- **Vitamin C.** Oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C. It is a great antioxidant. Just one large orange provides over 100% of your daily requirements of vitamin C.
- **Thiamine.** Also called vitamin B, function is to help convert carbohydrates into energy. It is a very good source for the brain and nervous system.
- **Folate.** Also called vitamin B9 or folic acid. It helps to create new blood cells and maintain healthy skin cells
- **Potassium.** Is considered a mineral and electrolyte, which conducts electrical impulses in the body. Intake of potassium can lower blood pressure; and helps muscles that control breathing and heartbeat. Oranges are a good source of potassium.

<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/foods/oranges#vitamins-and-minerals>

Oranges are low in calorie and a healthy refreshing snack. Keeping us healthy and joyful!

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

John 15:11



BIRTHDAY GREETING TO:

- **Mildred Jensen** who will celebrate her **99th** birthday on **August 7th**.
- **Olive Wuenstel** who will celebrate her **90th** birthday on **August 13th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Walt and Ruth Peters** who will celebrate their **64th** anniversary on **August 10th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Beth Parker and family on the passing of her husband, Alan Parker.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the vaccine.
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Joseph Archie), Bishop Peggy Johnson, and The United Methodist Church
- The Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church
- Those who lost loved ones in the building collapse in Florida.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Ann	Bonnie Glenn	Jean Murphy
Rosie Babel	Alina Guido	Jason Neall
Frank & Frances Beebe	Matt Hall	Ariel Ownes
Bobby Bergez	Al Hanna	Alan Parker
Brenda Beissel	Dave Harris	Laurel Pastor
Bob Cage	Beverly Harrison	Jan Perkins
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Cindy Horsman	Millie Remick
Jennifer Clarke	Karl Isele	Roy Rigby
Gloria Clendaniel	Ron Ivory	Dick Roberts
Bob Colbourne	Dean Johnson	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Jack & Denny Collins	Justin	Phil Saint
Luisa & Billy Combs	Linda Kemp	Richard Sapp
Violet Condif	Doris Koon	Alice Sellers
Lauren Connell	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Roland Simms
Linda Cottrill	Jean Layton	Racheal Simesak
Craig	Jean Layton's Grandson	Gary Simpson
Rick Crump	Nancy Lee	Linda Singleton
Sandy Culotta	Brittany Poore Little	Samuel Smith
Julie Dally	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Dave Stratton
Joanna Denney-Turner	Reagan McGovern	Joan Tolbert
Michael Dougherty	Sonny Meck	Debbie Topolski
William Ernst	Tiffany Medlin	Gene Topolski
Ken Fechter	Frank Mentusky	Joan Wadman
Charlie & Barbara	Orville Mills	Mary Lou Walters
Fleetwood	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	Lloyd Webb
Jayne Frank	Tiffany Mitchell	TJ Webb
Steve & Judy Franklin	Stan Moody	Betty Ziesel
Gail & Jeffrey	Susan Morgan	