

Worship: Unity in Diversity

Many Christians attend church regularly and take part in corporate worship. Many also worship privately in quiet places both indoors and outside. Yet how many think about who they are worshipping and what this means to how they live as Christians?

There is God the Father: holy, infinite, all knowing, all-powerful and our creator. There is God the Son, divine yet fully human, who taught and revealed the divinity and love of God to all people and showed us a new way to live. Jesus, who is called the Christ, shows us the way through the gate of death and new life to God, not limited by time and space. And we have God the Holy Spirit; a constant presence of power, who helps us to understand and enables us to worship fully with our body, mind and spirit.

This is our Trinitarian God, creator, redeemer and sustainer, who is one, yet three distinct beings, each unique and diverse, united together as one. The heart of God is diversity with mutual inter-dependence and love.

This is the God all Christians honour in worship, the one that we have chosen to follow and be more like. If the heart of God is diversity, then the heart of the Christian church needs to be the same. St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians writes that the church is one body made up of many parts, all unique and valuable, yet all dependent on each other. We are being called to mirror this Trinitarian model.

The different ways that we worship, giving praise and thanks to God are therefore to be celebrated. Likewise human variety in race, gender, temperament, age and culture. There is one God, one faith and one church which needs to be united in its glorious diversity.

**Elizabeth Goodridge and Ian Yearsley of Southwark Diocese
continue a series on worship.**

Draw me completely into yourself,
So that I might completely melt in your love.

Lay upon me, stamp upon me,
So that my stubborn pride might be destroyed.

Embrace me, kiss me,
So that my spiritual ugliness may turn to beauty.

Lock me into your chamber,
So that I might never stray from your presence.

Johann Freylinghausen, 1670 – 1739 German Pietist.