

Sharing worship Morning Worship February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, St Johns 9am.

May these words I preach be acceptable to you our lord and saviour Amen.

So why are we all here this morning?

Is it because we want to meet up with our friends?

well, I feel sure we do hope to meet up with them.

I feel confident in saying that we gather to share in worship and praise with other likeminded Christians.

We want to share what we believe in especially when we stand to affirm our faith and recite the Nicene creed it truly says what we mean and what we are about.

Our Worship should be a big part of our lives. It is important to come together to celebrate, to praise God, but it's just as important to know you are also a part of something that is happening all over the world.

This worship happens continually through out the day as different time zones either ahead of us or behind us, but it is good to keep that in mind and know that as you leave this service somewhere in the world another service is starting full of Christians just like us but talking singing and praising God in their native tongue and culture.

We here in this parish are so lucky to have so many different services to choose from --Morning Worship, --Worship 4 Everyone,- Eucharist service, an early morning service on a Sunday,-- a mid-week service and for those who may be unable to get to church for what ever reason can join in on our online service. There is also Monday night compline prayers. We also have the choice of two worship centres those being St Johns and St James.

I have attended most of these services and they are always well attended. I will one day go to the 8-o clock service on a Sunday morning as I think that's the only one, I haven't been too.

So, what drives us to want this connection with a fellow Christian?

For myself it is the need to know that what ever has happened in the week that I have just lived through whether it has been a good week or a rough one I can bring it all to God and I know that I am in company of other Christians all doing the same thing.

Being a Christian is about our everyday lives, how we live out our faith, it is about offering our very self to God daily in our prayers and in giving thanks.

To share our personal testimonies of what God has done in our lives, stories of Faith, his Grace and omitting to others our struggles in our faith all help to see Gods is at work, it provides others to see that being a Christian is sometimes extremely difficult and maybe these personal experiences can help another Christian grow in Faith.

God uses us our experiences to show his words in action from the bible, it helps to build up community where we are knitted together and we are breaking bread. Worship extends beyond the service as we share and learn of each other's talents, seeing how others are serving Him and how we make others welcome to come in and find him, begin to worship with us. To let them hear how we found him but to allow them to find their way to him.

The purpose of sharing is to acknowledge God's grace; it allows individuals to testify to his Joy Love and peace that is found in God. It is the building up the body of mutuality, where all members both give and receive ensuring everyone feels his goodness and riches towards us.

It helps us as worshippers to connect with God, with each other bridging gaps in our personal lives and our common faith.

Christian Worship helps us to live out our Christian lifestyle it helps us to learn to serve not only God but each other. We will sing shortly that great hymn of praise Brother Sister let me serve you and give me grace to let you be my servant to. There it is about giving and receiving

The First of all commandments is to Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is Worship.

This is what Jesus told the religious leaders which can be found in Mathew 22 verses 37=38.

It is said that we all have a selfish streak in us to some extent, the temptation of everyday life is all around us, it's easy to wander off into our own thoughts and ways, become self-focused. So, what can we do to bring ourselves back from these thoughts and temptations?

Come and join in Worship it brings our focus back to God and takes away the focus on ourselves. Worship by its very nature brings us back to God.

Worshipping together is not just a need it should be a priority as Christians it is important to come together to worship. God designed us to Worship, to enable us to recognise the creator, to be reminded of his greatness his majesty and his might. To enable us to say thankyou for our many blessings and in doing so together brings about a great feeling of selflessness. It becomes a spiritual walk with God and there is tremendous value in that.

It brings about Empathy, Kindness and generosity without expecting reward for the reward is the sharing in Worship with the needs and concerns for all of mankind wherever we are worshiping in the world today.

At this time of lent we are hearing about how Jesus was being tempted in the dessert for forty days and nights by Satan, he was being tempted to turn rocks in bread to satisfy his hunger,

Jesus reply to this was” Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Mathew 4 : 4.

Satan wanted him to jump off temple roof was strongly urging him to throw himself down to suggest that God would protect him, to force Gods hand to make a public spectacle of his divinity.

But Jesus replied “do not put the lord your God to the test “Mathew 4 :7.

Satan then takes him to the top of a mountain showing him all the Kingdoms of the world in all their glory in exchange for Worship

Jesus replied “Away with you Satan for it is written you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve “Mathew 4:10.

Satan departed and then the Angels came and tended to Jesus.

These temptations of Jesus teach us that true Worship of God requires us to be true to him, to want to serve him, to submit to his will, to trust him and to have a purpose, a focus and to need and want to Worship together in an exclusive act of devotion to God.

Amen

Let us pray the prayer of the week from lent booklets

God of mercy, swift to help us as our lips pour forth your praise, fill our hearts with the peace you give to those who wait for your salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

