

LEADING THE WAY

Way of Life - a pattern for Christian Living

Journeying Up
Worship- adoring God 



“Tree”. Bridget Macaulay. Used with permission

Participants’ Notes.

Leading the Way is a resource produced by the Diocese of Truro Discipleship Team. It is designed to help individuals, congregations and communities to explore the way of life which will enable them to flourish in Jesus Christ.



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* Other Resources

See the back of the Worship- a Simple Guide.

The Pilgrim series ‘A Course for the Christian Journey’ has a 6-session course on ‘The Eucharist’, and also on ‘The Creeds’: www.pilgrimcourse.org

There will soon be a ‘**Windows Into**’ course on ‘Christian Worship’ available.

<http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vision-strategy/discipleship/windows-into/>

A Prayer by Eric Milner-White

Let me come into the church of God
To meet the Spirit of God;
Not to give religion an hour,
But to live in the eternal;
Not to maintain a decorous habit,
But to bow in the holy place before the Holy One;
Not to judge the words of a preacher,
But to draw life from the Word and Truth everlasting;
Not to be moved or soothed by music,
But to sing from the heart divine praises;
Not that my eyes roam over architecture or congregation,
But that my soul look up to the King in his beauty,
And my heart pleads the needs of his children;
Not that my thoughts escape out into the world,
But that they be still, and know that you are God.
Let me go, and go again, into the house of the Lord,
And be glad, and give thanks, adore my King and my God.

Eric Milner Milner-White OGS CBE DSO was a Dean of York in the Church of England, holding this post between 1941 and his death in 1963.

EXTRA SPACE FOR NOTES AND REFLECTIONS.

* Prayer

All that has been done in this session will be drawn together in prayer. This prayer can be found on the front of 'Worship - a Simple Guide.'

May none of God's wonderful works
keep silence night or morning.
**Bright stars, high mountains,
the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers:**
May all these break into song
as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
May all the angels in the heavens reply:
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God,
the only giver of grace.
Amen! Amen! Amen!

* Beginning where we are

Your group leader will light a candle and place it on a table and then lead a prayer, or perhaps use a video to introduce the theme.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the time had fully come
you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

In him the fullness of your glory dwells.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

* Icebreaker

* Introduction

- * The leader will read a short précis from 'Worship- a Simple Guide' - please take the leaflet home and read it further.

* **Bible 'conversation'**

Prayer

Holy Spirit of God;
open our ears and our minds, our hearts and our
spirits,
**that we may hear you speaking to us
through these words of Scripture.**
May we be ready to be encouraged and challenged,
guided and changed.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
⁶ Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary

⇒ Do we make the most of baptisms, weddings and funerals in helping people to include God in the milestones of their lives?

In what ways could our worship show its relevance to the community today?

⇒ In what ways might church and community work together to meet the spiritual needs of others?

⇒ How do we cater for those who worship in informal ways (through such things as wayside shrines, prayer boards or requests) for whom spirituality is important, but who cannot connect with our regular worship?

Are we confident in feeling we have something to offer the world today?

How might we help people to engage more fully in our worship?

⇒ What would need to change to attract others to join us in our acts of worship?

How does our worship refuel us to go out in the world?

⇒ Do we find that our worship spills out from the building into all that we do?

- **Community**

How does worship serve the community?

⇒ How might local worship opportunities be used to build relationship and enhance peoples' sense of belonging?

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD,
for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness

Notes

* **Questions**

• **Personal**

How am I enriched by my experience of worship?

⇒ Might having more input around the prayers of intercession help me to say Amen more fully? What would that input be?

How connected do I feel to the gathered community of the church?

⇒ In what ways could I be more fully part of the congregation, and feel like 'we're in it together'?

Where are the opportunities for me to have creative input into parts of the service? Who could I ask about this?

Are there discussion groups or courses that I might join to deepen my understanding of the worship we share in? Who can I contact about this?

Spend some time considering what God might be calling you to do in the life of the church and in his name in the community.

• **Congregational.**

How does our worship cater for the needs of all in the congregation?

⇒ Reflecting on the acts of worship held in church. Whom do they cater for? Whom, if anyone, do they exclude and why is that the case?

How accessible is our worship for those who do not normally come to church?

⇒ What support do we offer to visitors?