

fruit and that your fruit should abide.” (John 15:16, ESV) He invites us, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29, ESV)

There are many voices around us, many calls to do this or go there. Only one voice comes with the promise of lasting fruit, the promise of restful service. And when we take the time to stop and listen for the voice of Jesus, we will find the place that fulfils those promises. We’ll find our perfect place in this world.



Rev. Carey Jo Johnston

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

Over the past few weeks, I’ve pondered the question, why do we come to worship? Who should be the focus when we come to our worship service? You might be thinking right now, “Well of course we know the answer, God should be the focus.” We know the answer in our heads, but what do our actions show as the heart of our worship?

Personally, I like variety in worship -- different styles and tempos of music, different versions of the Bible, different styles of preaching. Others like to have everything the same each week, this brings them security and comfort in a changing world. Neither is right or wrong. What is important is the heart.

Instead of focusing on what we like or don’t like about a particular worship service, perhaps we need to ask questions like this... Are we bringing honour to God with our worship? Are we bringing

honour and glory to God with our music? Is God’s Word being read and proclaimed with integrity and truth?

In John 4, Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well. As she and Jesus spoke about living water, the woman brought up the religious controversy of the day,

“Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship.” (John 4:19-20, CEV - Contemporary English Version)

Jesus replied to the woman...

“Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.” (John 4:23-24, CEV)

True worship isn’t about the place or the form. True worship begins with God. God’s Spirit leads us to worship him according to his truth. This truth we find in God’s Word. We come to worship, not so much for what we can get out of it, but to honour and glorify God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We praise God for who He is and what He has done.

The Book of Revelation gives us a model for worship:

⁹The living creatures kept praising, honouring, and thanking the one who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever. ¹⁰At the same time the twenty-four elders knelt down before the one sitting on the throne. And as they worshiped the one who lives forever, they placed their crowns in front of the throne and said,

¹¹“Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory, honour, and power. You created all things, and by your decision they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:9-11, CEV) [Read Revelation 4 and 5 for additional worship ideas]

My prayer is that each of us will focus when we come to worship on bringing God honour and glory and praise. I pray that we will have a heart of worship, led by his Spirit to worship him according to His truth. Amen