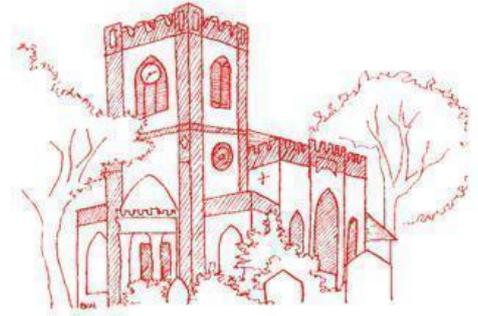


DPC News

June 2015



What is 'worship'? We might presume it is what we do for the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ – different religions 'worship' their gods according to what they understand their god wants. But Christians still differ over what '*Christian worship*' looks like.

Some say worship is everything we do in a church service. Some say we are only worshipping when we are singing. Still others say that worship only happens when the congregation sings with a certain enthusiasm. These difficulties come when we start from our viewpoint rather than from what God tells us. When we listen to him the problems are resolved and we understand worship in a surprising new way.

God speaks about this in Paul's letter to some early Christians in Rome. Paul wrote this:

Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1 N.I.V.)

True and proper worship

Paul tells Christians what true and proper worship is. It means making a sacrifice. It is done in view of something God our Father has already done. When we look closely at the verse we can see those things.

True and proper worship is in view of something God has already done. It is in view of *his mercy*. Earlier in his letter, Paul told the Christians about God's mercy in sending Jesus to die in the place of humans who deserve God's anger. Anyone who trusts Jesus will not suffer the anger we deserve for disregarding God. That is God's mercy.

When we know God's mercy, we can offer God true and proper worship. If we do not know it, we will try to offer worship to get us into God's presence – but Jesus has already brought his people into God's throne room. *(continued overleaf)*

If we do not know mercy, we will try to offer worship to pay our debt to God – but Jesus has already paid our debt for us. We offer proper worship in thankfulness to God who has shown us mercy.

Sacrifice

True and proper worship is giving God a sacrifice. But instead of offering the body of another animal we give ourselves as a sacrifice. And instead of offering a dead body, we offer our *bodies as a living sacrifice*.

What does this mean? It means deciding to live our lives in our bodies God's way; using our lips in speech that benefits others, or choosing not to speak; using our hands in beneficial work or kind acts, not to harm; using our eyes in what we choose to watch and to turn away from; and so on.

24/7 worship

Do you see how this sweeps away all the arguments I mentioned at the beginning? Worship should be 24/7 – or at least, the hours when we are awake! Worship is not something that we come to church to do.

Rather, we come to Church to be reminded of and helped by God's mercy. Refreshed and reminded, we leave to worship Him with our lives.

In the coming months, I plan to give occasional sermons to teach what offering ourselves as a living sacrifice involves. We will listen to God's voice in His Word to consider being a neighbour, making decisions, being let down, living under authority, sexual relationships, work and more. If you would like help in worshipping our merciful God, join us for the first of these on Sunday 28 June followed by picnic lunch and a question time.



Joel Edwards



We're a year old... what's been good?

- We've got a church willing to go out to talk to strangers twice a week & follow up
- We've gone to 1,700 homes, then returned with over 500 with handwritten cards tailored to the conversations we've had.
- Half a dozen people from the estate join us on Sundays on & off enjoying the friendship, teaching and informality of a small Bible loving church.

- We've just started having 1-2-1 studies with 3 people each week.
- We've started an English conversation class with women in a local school.
- We've become involved in the Friday night LCM youth group which is now very clearly focussed on teaching children the Bible each week.

Predictably we're learning on the job and need your help to do it better.

BIG EXCITEMENT - We've found someone to join us as an LCM church-attached worker (hopefully September). He's planning to marry a children's worker next March. We'd love her to work for the church. We need another £5,000 a year to do it. Could you help us put a gospel worker into our estate?

Please pray for us to keep making an impression on our massive estate.

In June we plan to take an attractive publicity card to every home. Pray we'll say the right things the right way, and that we'll gather some 'low fruit' as a result.

Please pray the 1-2-1 Bible reading opportunities will grow, that locals will be converted and mature into disciples, who will then also reach others.

Please pray our own team will take on roles of responsibility and do them well.

Pray for us in that transition, so that we make mature disciples in ever-increasing numbers (our mission statement).

We're grateful to God for financial security in our first year. Our own church giving has increased, but is substantially short of our running costs. Please pray for God to continue to provide much-needed financial support.

Mike Reith



Church Picnic

Sunday 28 June

Let's have lunch together after church, in the vicarage garden! This will also be an opportunity to ask Joel questions. We'll share more about this in the church notices on Sunday mornings

Key contacts

Joel Edwards (vicar) 0208 215 2962 email: joel.dagenham@gmail.com

Steve Fenn (Church warden) 01708 767954

Mark Mensah-Twumasi (Church warden) 07931 847863

Pippa Hodder (Youth Worker) 07828 683853

Adrian Hodder (Apprentice) 07913 161108

Kathy Playle (Children's Worker) 01708 442211

Our website: www.dagenhamparishchurch.org

Please visit our website to listen to the latest sermons, catch up on the weekly notices, download the latest copy of DPC News, or just find out more about our church family.