

## WORSHIP

By Adam Faughn

How do you describe what we do when we gather on Sundays? I suppose that most of the time, we just say that we are "going to worship" or that those are our "worship times."

But if you had to put a word after the word "worship" to describe what we do, what word would you choose? Probably, the main way we would fill in that blank would be to use the word "service." We might even announce that it is time for us to begin our worship service. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with that. It is an accurate term for what we are doing, as worship is meant to be in service to our heavenly Father.

But I want to suggest another word that means a lot to me, and that might further help us focus on what we are doing.

For about seven years, I worked with Andy Kizer in Haleyville, Alabama. He meant a lot to me as a very young man trying to learn the ins-and-outs of local ministry. Outside of my own family, he is likely the man whom I would consider my "mentor" in the ministry.

One thing that he used to say then--and still does--is in describing worship. It is not that he never said "worship service." He would from time-to-time. But it was not his main way of describing these periods of time. Instead, the vast majority of the time, he would refer to them as "worship privileges." If you think about it, that is actually quite profound.

To be allowed to worship the almighty God of the universe and to know how to do so in a way that pleases and honors Him truly is a privilege. We should not be allowed in His presence, but He seeks such (cf. John 4:23-24). We would never know how to approach Him in a pleasing way, but He has clearly told us how to do so and that He delights when we do. What a privilege!

For various reasons, though, we sometimes struggle or even fail to see worship for the privilege it is. We treat it as common. We decide other things are more important. We want to change how it is done. We are present physically but a million miles away mentally. We would rather stare at Facebook than sing to the Father. We find mundane things of this world more interesting than the glory of worshipping God.

When we act in these types of ways, it is obvious that we are not seeing worship for the true privilege it is. But, oh, how we should! To come before God should humble us deeply.

To know we can please Him as we do should cause us great joy. And to be allowed to do so each week should cause us to realize what an amazing privilege worship truly is.

It is a worship service. There is no doubt about that. But may we never forget that it is also a worship privilege and reverently treat these times as such.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 4, 2024

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m. on Zoom

**Today's Sermon: Who is Who in the Kingdom.**

**Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:14-19**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm February 7, on Zoom, 1 Thessalonians.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, February 6. The prophet Haggai.
- ❖ **Community Coffee House-** Saturday, Feb. 10, 1-3pm.
- ❖ **Next Potluck & Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – February 18.
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing-** March 24 at Horseheads.



- **Our first Community Coffee House and open mic will take place on **SATURDAY** the 10<sup>th</sup> of February from 1-3pm. We will serve free coffee and tea, and maybe some other drinks with free cookies. We are planning a family-friendly wholesome atmosphere. **PLEASE COME TO ENTERTAIN AND TO ENCOURAGE!****
- **The ladies are planning our second annual Ladies' Prayer Brunch on April 6<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Arthur delivered his first Bible lesson at midnight on Friday night to the Pakistani Bible Institute (preacher training school) located in Lahore, Pakistan. He and other teachers from the US are coordinated in the program by Nadeem Sadir who lives in Murphreesboro, TN.**

## PRAYERS

- **Miki's friend Monique** was readmitted to hospital on Wednesday because of inability to manage her spine pain after her port was surgically adjusted last week. Please pray for pain relief for her.
- **Dawn Cowles** is still experiencing a degree of discomfort following her cancer surgery the week before last. Please pray for her comfort. Pray also that the biopsy will be negative for cancer in the lymph nodes. Pray for Paul, who is caring for Dawn also.
- **Pray for the success of our outreach effort with the coffee house and an open mic program for the community.**
- **Pray for success of our preacher search.**

### Continue to pray for these people:

- **Bonnie's brother Greg** upcoming hernia surgery
  - **Pat Gutherie**-he has lung cancer, stage 4, and his wife Robin.
  - **Paulette**- Pain coming from her spine and affecting her hip and leg.
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. Pray also for Carrie who was unable to handle the stress. Mike's health care is now being overseen by his sister.
  - **Sue Barry**- stage 4 breast cancer. (currently in remission)
  - **Steve's brother Brian**- prostate cancer
  - **Steve's sister Deb**- leukemia, and breast cancer

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barnecat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barnecat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.