

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Richard Foster, in *Celebration of Discipline*, offers some thoughts on worship and on preparing our hearts and our church for worship:

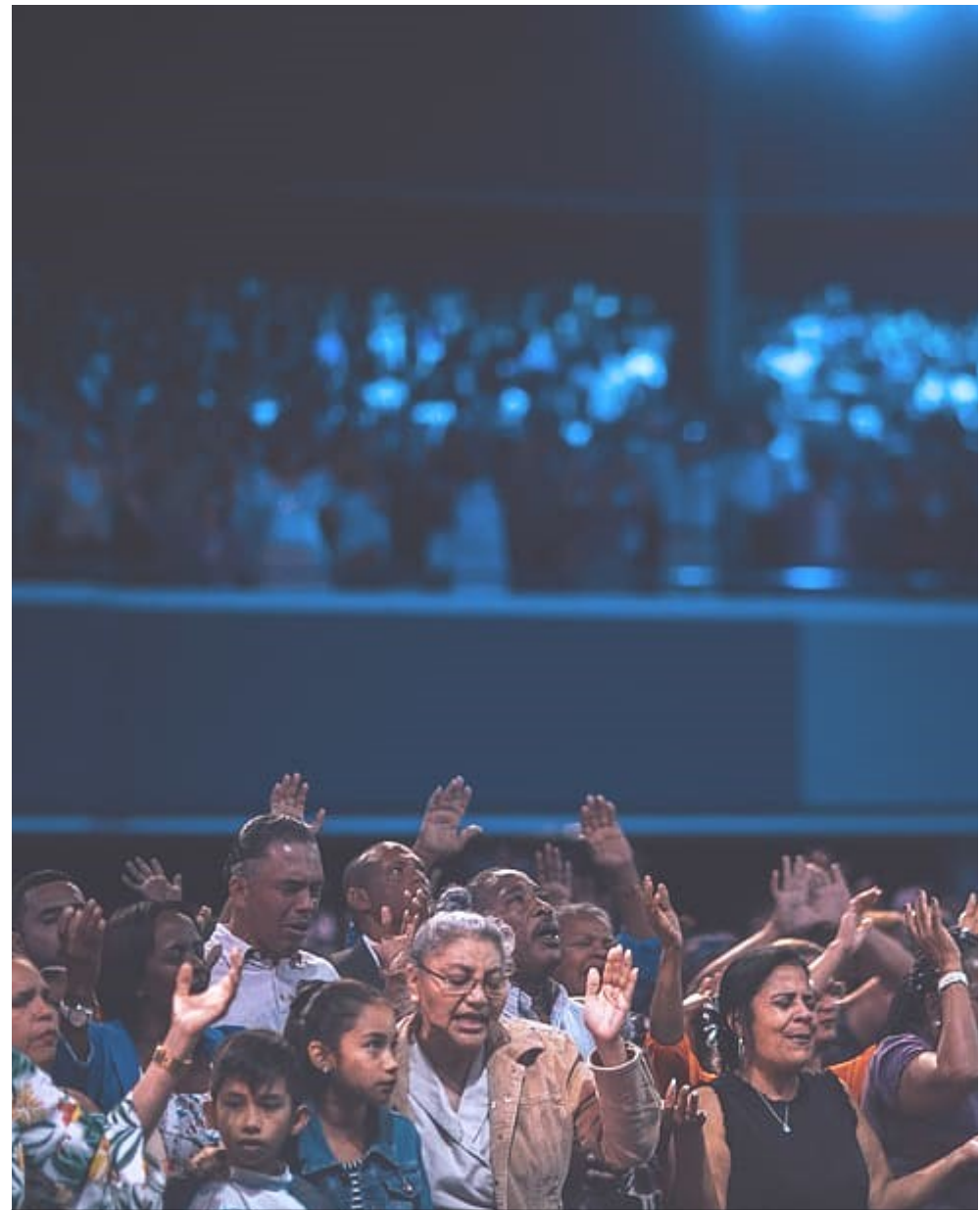
A striking feature of worship in the Bible is that people gathered in what we could only call a “holy expectancy.” They believed they would actually hear the *Kol YHWH*, the voice of God. ...They were coming into the awful, glorious, gracious presence of the living God. They gathered with anticipation, knowing that Christ was present among them and would teach them and touch them with his living power. ...

When more than one or two come into public worship with a holy expectancy, it can change the atmosphere of a room. People who enter harried and distracted are drawn quickly into a sense of the silent Presence. Hearts and minds are lifted upward. The air becomes charged with expectancy.

Here is a practical handle to put on this idea. Live throughout the week as an heir of the kingdom, listening for his voice, obeying his word. Since you have heard his voice throughout the week, you know that you will hear his voice as you gather for public worship. Enter the service ten minutes early. Lift your heart in adoration to the King of glory. Contemplate his majesty, glory, and tenderness as revealed in Jesus Christ. Picture the marvelous vision that Isaiah had of the Lord “high and lifted up” or the magnificent revelation that John had of Christ with eyes “like a flame of fire” and voice “like the sound of many waters” (Is 6; Rev 1). Invite the real Presence to be manifest.

Next, lift into the light of Christ the pastor and other worship leaders. Picture the Shekinah of God’s radiance surrounding them. Inwardly release them to speak the truth boldly in the power of the Lord.

When people begin to enter the room, glance around until you see someone who needs your intercessory work. Perhaps their shoulders are drooped, or they seem a bit sad. Lift them into the glorious, refreshing Light of his Presence. See the burden tumbling from their shoulders as it did from Pilgrim’s in Bunyan’s allegory. Hold them as a special intention throughout the service. If only a few in any given congregation will do this, it will deepen the worship experience of all.



August 18, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



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# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, August 18, 2024

## Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

*In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.*

## Welcome and Announcements

Diana Rich, Elder

*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org) and click the Register Attendance button.*

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

### Prelude

Mary Coffman

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary*

### \*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Diana Rich & Congregation

L: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

**P: to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;**

L: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**P: and your faithfulness by night.**

L: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

**P: How great are your works, O LORD!**

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

### \*Opening Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #17 (vv. 1, 4, 5)

*"O Worship the King"*

### \*Invocation

Diana Rich & Congregation

**O Lord, we adore you, the Word, the Truth, the living God.**

**With worshiping hearts and listening ears, we bow before you,**

**whose voice has sounded over all the earth**

**in the thunder of the commandments,**

**in the preaching of prophets and apostles,**

**and in the teaching of Jesus Christ.**

**Speak to us now, O God,**

**and may we not forget what we hear but act upon it always;**

**through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

### Prayer Hymn

CH #5 (all)

*"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

## Silent Meditation

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulsey

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Responsive Reading

Diana Rich & Congregation

Psalm 100 (*Chalice Hymnal*)

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**P: Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come into God's presence with singing.**

L: Know that the LORD is God.

**P: It is God who made us, to whom we belong;  
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and God's courts with praise.

**P: Give thanks and bless God's Name.**

L: For the LORD is good;

**P: God's steadfast love endures forever,  
God's faithfulness to all generations.**

### Special Reading

Shawn Quick & Carol Ann Winburn

*"Get Rid of the Mystery Grossness"* by Jennifer Jolly

### Scripture

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Lyssa Lile

### Message

*"Yay, God!"*

Sharla Hulsey

### Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

### \*Invitation Hymn

*"Near to the Heart of God"*

CH #581 (all)

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Offering Meditation

Don Malan

### Tithes & Offerings

Diaconate

*Offering trays will be passed in the pews.*

\*Doxology CH #47  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication Diana Rich

Call to Communion Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn CH #419 (all)  
*“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*

Words of Institution Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer Diana Rich

Distribution of the Elements Diaconate  
*Everyone is welcome at Christ’s Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Benediction Sharla Hulsey  
*Taking the Light of Christ into the World*

\*Closing Hymn CH #33 (refrain only)  
*“How Great Thou Art”*

\* Please rise as able

**SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Sharla Hulsey

**Elder:** Diana Rich

**Deacons:** Derek Lile,  
Jennifer Schmehl

**Greeter:** The Lile family

**Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile

**Choir Director:** Carol Ann Winburn

**Accompanist:** Mary Coffman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **OUTREACH MISSION** - For August, we will be supporting the Community Food Pantry with school lunch donations, such as peanut butter and jelly, snack crackers, fruit cups, and juice boxes. Bring donations to the church. Thank you!
- **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN** - The Stewardship Committee started a “Ketch-up” campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. The goal is \$20,000. Currently we have raised \$4,945. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-Up” campaign.
- **BOARD MEETING** - Today after worship
- **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m.
- **POTLUCK & ICE CREAM** - August 24 @ 6 pm at Don & Debbie Cole’s house. Pulled pork & homemade ice cream. Bring lawn chairs & a dish to share.
- **COMING EVENT** - Special Music by Zach Craft on Sunday, August 25 during Worship
- **DISCIPLES WOMEN** - The Disciples Women will have a salad dinner on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the church’s Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to join us for fun and fellowship. Feel free to bring a friend as well as your favorite salad. Our roll call will be “your favorite hymn”. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Taylor or Carol Lewis.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE** - Practice starts on Wednesday, September 4 @ 7pm and will be held every Wednesday thereafter at 7pm.
- **YOUTH GROUP** - Meetings start on Wednesday, September 4 @ 6pm, for children in grades 3 through 12.

**THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, August 18:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Tuesday, August 20:	5:30 p.m.	<b>Community Café</b>
Friday, August 23:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies
Saturday, August 24:	6 pm	<b>Potluck &amp; Ice Cream</b>

**NEXT WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, August 25:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Friday, August 30:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies