

Welcome & Introductions

"How is it with you?"

How are you feeling?
How is your faith? your family? your health?
Are you struggling or celebrating?
Are you grieving or rejoicing?
Are you questioning faith?
Where have you found inspiration?

Praying Together

Isaiah 1:11-17 (Psalm 34 & Revelation 7:9-17)

Discussion: In This Together

What is the purpose of worship? What is its function? What does (or, should) it achieve or do?

Is worship participation optional? What do you miss when you do not participate? What do others miss when you do not participate? What is missed when others do not participate?

On Sunday, Pastor Jacob suggested that worship is a communal act of learning to be in God's presence and the presence of one another—to grow in love with God and one another—which is the *telos* of all Creation (see Rev. 7:9-17 and 21:

In what ways has worship helped and challenged you to grow deeper in love with God?

In what ways has worship helped and challenged you to grow deeper in love with other worshippers, people in your community and/or the world?

Final Thoughts?

'Till We Meet Again

my notes, thoughts, & prayers

Isaiah 1:11-17

Common English Bible

¹¹ What should I think about all your sacrifices? says the LORD.

says the LORD.

I'm fed up with entirely burned offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts.

I don't want the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from you, this trampling of my temple's courts?

Stop bringing worthless offerings.

Your incense repulses me.

New moon, sabbath, and the calling of an assembly—

I can't stand wickedness with celebration!

I hate your new moons and your festivals.

They've become a burden that I'm tired of bearing.

When you extend your hands,

I'll hide my eyes from you.

Even when you pray for a long time,

I won't listen.

I won't listen.

Your hands are stained with blood.

Wash! Be clean!

Remove your ugly deeds from my sight.

Put an end to such evil;

learn to do good.

Seek justice:

help the oppressed; defend the orphan;

plead for the widow.