

Why do we usually worship together on Sunday?

Sunday is the day of celebration and worship for Christians. This was the day when the women discovered that the tomb where Jesus had been buried was empty, and Jesus was risen. For Christians, every Sunday is like a celebration of the good news of Easter. The holy day for Jews is Saturday, and the holy day for Muslims is Friday.



Some things you could do during a worship service

Before the Call to Worship, you could...

- if your church uses hymnbooks, look in the worship bulletin and find the songs that will be sung; find these in the hymnbook and mark them with pieces of paper
- if there are scripture readings listed in the worship bulletin, find them in the Bible, and mark them with paper too
- underline all the places where everyone speaks together (this might be typed in bold or marked with the word "People")
- put a star (*) beside all the songs or hymns, when people usually stand up
- think of the things you want to pray about this morning

During the sermon, you could...

- draw a picture of the story you are hearing
- write a poem about something that you hear
- look around the room and notice all the things that help you focus on God
- draw a circle around the parts of the worship service that you don't understand, and would like to ask someone about

Welcome to Worship!



Once a week the whole church family gathers to worship together.

Worship is a way of being with God.

**Sometimes we pray,
sometimes we listen,
sometimes we sing.**

Christians all over the world gather every week to worship together. Some churches have an Order of Service bulletin which tells people what will happen during the worship service. Here are some things that might be in a worship bulletin. Which of these are parts of worship in your church?

Gathering and Praise

We gather and get ready to worship

Call to worship: we are invited to worship God

Hymn or song: we sing about how good and great God is

Prayers: we pray to God

- the **Prayer of Approach** or **Invocation** reminds us that God is with us
- the **Prayer of Confession** helps us say we are sorry for things we have said or done that hurt others
- the **Assurance of Pardon** or **Absolution** reminds us that God forgives



The Word

We listen for God's message

Scripture: we listen to readings from the Bible

Sermon: we listen as the worship leader helps us to understand what the scripture reading means for us in our lives

Hymn or song: we sing a song which usually has the same idea as the scripture and sermon



The Sacraments



Sacraments are special actions that we do together as a church family. In **Baptism** we welcome someone into the church family and promise to help her or him grow as a Christian. **Communion** (also called **Eucharist** or the **Lord's Supper**) is a special time when we share bread and wine (or grape juice) together and remember Jesus.

Our Response

We show that we want to live God's way

Announcements: we find out what is happening in our church and in the world

Offering or Collection: we bring gifts of money to help the church do God's work

Creed: in some churches we say together the creed or statement of faith, which are words that describe what we believe

Prayers of the people: we speak and listen to God as we pray about our concerns for the world, each other, and ourselves. We may end by singing or saying -

The Prayer that Jesus taught (sometimes called **The Lord's Prayer**)

Hymn or song: we sing a song about living in God's way

We are sent out into the world to love God and to be a blessing

Benediction and Commissioning: the word benediction means "good words" and it is a blessing that the worship leader says to us as we get ready to leave

Choral Amen: the word Amen means "Yes" or "so be it"; sometimes the choir sings this last song, and sometimes everyone sings it together

