The Call to Worship

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.”

Psalm 95:6-7 (NIV)
“Therefore, there can only be one call to worship, and this comes at conversion, when in complete repentance we admit to worshiping falsely, trapped by the inversion and enslaved to false gods before whom we have been dying sacrifices. This call to true worship comes but once, not every Sunday, in spite of the repeated calls to worship that begin most liturgies and orders of worship. These should not be labeled calls to worship but calls to continuation of worship. We do not go to church to worship, but, already at worship, we join our brothers and sisters in continuing those actions that should have been going on--privately, familially, or even corporately--all week long.”

- Harold Best
“(Fresh new worship music) is not the main thing. It’s not the objective or goal. The heart of what we bring, is always the main thing... If you’re giving Him your heart, and it’s coming out of a life of worship, it will be what He delights in and requires.”

- Matt Redman
The Bible describes worship in physical terms. The root meaning for the Hebrew word we translate worship is "to prostrate." The word bless literally means "to kneel." Thanksgiving refers to "an extension of the hand." Throughout Scripture we find a variety of physical postures in connection with worship: lying prostrate, standing, kneeling, lifting the hands, clapping the hands, lifting the head, bowing the head, dancing, and wearing sackcloth and ashes. The point is that we are to offer God our bodies as well as all the rest of our being. Worship is appropriately physical. - Richard J. Foster
Worship is the highest elevation of the spirit, and yet the lowliest prostration of the soul.

- Charles H. Spurgeon
Worship is the intentional attitudes and actions of focusing on God. - Byron Spradlin
"Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose - and all of this gathered up in adoration."

- William Temple
Definitions of Worship

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

- Jesus (John 4:23-24)
A Biblical Paradigm for Worship

God

Father/Mother  King/Lord  Lover/Beloved
"In that day,"
declares the LORD,
"you will call me 'my husband';
you will no longer call me 'my master.'
- Hosea 2:16
A Biblical Paradigm for Worship

“I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.”

- Hosea 2:19-20
“and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’ “ - Hosea 2:22-23
The Lover and the Beloved
Desire

You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.

— St. Augustine
Desire

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine.”

- Song of Songs 1:2
To worship in spirit is to draw near to God with an undivided heart.

- Erwin Lutzer
Dialogue

“My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

- Song of Songs 2:14
Divine Union

Our heavenly Father loves us with an extravagant abandon. Passionate, undignified worship is our only reasonable response.

- Matt Redman
Divine Union

“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.
I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey;
I have drunk my wine and my milk. “

- Song of Songs 5:1
Afterglow

Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God - it whets our appetite.

- Eugene Peterson
Afterglow

“I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.”

- Song of Songs 5:6
The Lover and the Beloved

Desire

Afterglow

Dialogue

Divine Union
Practical Steps in Worship

- Regain the practice of awe and wonder.
- Center worship from the heart.
- Be willing to be gathered into communal worship.
- Practice worship.
- Learn to celebrate.
- Journal and journey in thanksgiving.
- Discover the joy of abandonment to Divine providence.
A private relationship of worshiping God is the greatest essential element of spiritual fitness.

- Oswald Chambers