



Realigning our Worship to bring Glory to God

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

Please read Psalm 149

Psalm 149 is one of the five Hallelujah psalms found at the end of the Book of Psalms. The Psalmist uses the refrain 'Praise the Lord', at the beginning and end of the psalm to underscore the fact that the psalm is dedicated to the praise of God. The words of the Psalmist call us not only to a place of worship but to a life of worship in time and eternity.

David, the Psalmist, understood God's desire and invited the congregation of saints to sing a new song. David, a musician of immense talent, knew that the heart, soul, and mind needed to become engaged in worship through praise, using the voice, instruments, and dance. He also knew that the congregation, the gathered people of God, best presented this praise before God.

The Psalm is an integrated hymn of praise with two main divisions. Part 1, verses 1-5, is an invitation or summon to worship God intentionally and consistently, in joyful glory. Part 2, verses 6-9, however, would suggest that worship prepares one for victory over the enemy.

This is, of course, a strange juxtaposition. It is almost as if worship enables us to participate in God's divine plan, not only over our lives but over the lives of those who are against God and God's people. The sword drawn for fighting, it seems, needs to be drawn foremostly in worship. Could this be God's way of assuring victory for God's people against those who attempt to foil God's plans? The battle then, against such foes seems to be the Lord's, not ours.

But we must contemplate this militant position in light of Jesus' Matthew 26:25 instruction, to 'Put your sword back in place, for all who live by the sword, will die by the sword'. Jesus' vicarious death for us on the cross won the victory on our behalf, which frees us to worship without alloy or and without plans to destroy the 'enemy'. It seems then that our duty is to seek God primarily in worship, and God will bring the victory!

When we realign our worship, we bring glory to God, and we are better able to commune with the other. Let us then consider the following:

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- The word worship, *proskuneó* in Greek, means 'to move towards to kiss', or to lie prostrate on the ground before the object of worship.

- Worship indicates the awe, respect, and love expressed to the One that is worshipped.

- Worship is constant and unwavering.

- Worship is God's requirement, and it offers to God adoration and praise not only in song and with instruments but through prayers, meditation on God, reading of the Holy Scripture, and being in constant obedience to God in order to discern direction for life and living.

- Worship of God accomplishes 'man's chief end and brings glory to God. (Westminster's Shorter Catechism)

- Although the human being has a propensity to worship, sometimes we replace the object of our worship with idols and activities that tend to erase the Lord of Worship.

- Worship must be in spirit and in truth – John 4:24 reminds us, 'God is Spirit and those that worship God, must worship God in spirit and in truth.

- Worship informs and shapes our life and our perspective on life.

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORSHIP

- Worship should be simple and focused on God and the Word of God- *Sola Scriptura*, rather than on objects or individual preferences and style.

- Worship should form worshippers into a community. The worship community must be one in intent and purpose.

- Worship invites participation as worshippers are not just mere observers but active participants. The congregation must participate in the hymns and prayers and in the reading of scripture. Congregants also participate by the giving of their tithes, offerings, and gifts during worship.

- Worship must stimulate fellowship among the believers. True fellowship unifies the people of God and provides an atmosphere of care and kindness.

- The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are combined with the Word to make worship complete.

THE SACREDNESS OF WORSHIP

• Worship is sacred and devoted only to God. When we devote worship to ourselves by doing what is pleasing in our own sight, we are making worship devoid of the divine presence.

• The emphasis is on both the sacredness of the space and on the sacredness and sincerity of our hearts when we gather for worship. This translates into how we live and relate one to the other in the space and outside of the space.

• When worship is sacred, there is no room for hypocrisy, distrust, animosity, or hurt.

• Sacred worship ushers in peace and maintain harmony.

• God is remembered, adored, and worshipped in sacredness and the covenant made with God informs how we covenant one with the other.

• In the sacredness of worship, we find hope, peace, joy, and love.

On this **Back to Church Sunday, September 10, 2023**, the invitation is extended to all to come to a new or renewed understanding of who God is and that God requires our praise and our worship at all times.

The invitation is not just to attend a worship service in a congregation but to engage in a dynamic relationship with God and to make God the center of our life.

It is an invitation to accept the Lordship of Christ and to depend on the comfort and leading of the Holy Spirit.

The call back to Church is a call to engage God in the midst of the people of God and to focus all that we are and all that we do on God and God alone.

“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. Today, if only you would hear his voice, Do not harden your hearts.” - Psalm 95: 6-8.

Amen!

ATTENTION!

Website Address Change

Dear sisters and brothers, please note that our website address has been changed.

Old address: www.unitedchurch.org.ky

New address: www.unitedchurch.ky/

Please update your bookmarks and inform others about this change. Thank you.

WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH VBS

Mrs. Maxine Boddan-Robinson

Webster Memorial's VBS was held on July 3-7, 2023. The attendance over the week was 42 children and youth who were grouped into various classes.



The VBS theme was **Ready, Set, Move!**

Follow Jesus Here, There and Everywhere.

The daily Bible focus invited the participants to consider the following:

Day 1 – Matthew 7: 24-29 tells the story of the man who built his house on the sand and the other on the rock. Jesus made it clear that anyone who puts his teaching into practice builds their life on a foundation that will always be strong, no matter what happens in life. We should always do what Jesus says!

Day 2 –Matthew 16:13-20 suggests that the disciples followed Jesus because they saw how he healed people and gave them a new way of thinking about God. When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” If we want to follow Jesus, we too need to decide what we believe. We need to Believe who Jesus is.

Day 3 – John 21:15-25 tells us the Easter story where Jesus forgives Peter. As with us, Jesus loves us even when we mess up. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all of our mess ups – our sins. If Jesus loves us that much, there’s something we can all do. We can all show love to others. Jesus said to Peter “Feed my sheep”. He meant for Peter to go out and show love. That’s the reasons the church exists. We are here to show love to others. Love who Jesus loves.

Day 4 – Acts 2. The story of Pentecost really had the children’s attention, fire from your head, but not getting burned! As we all know this story of the 3000 people that were baptized on that one day. Peter and the other disciples now had God’s Holy Spirit to help them tell people in every nation about Jesus. What Jesus did was so amazing that we should all share it! Share what Jesus did.

Day 5 – Acts 17:16-34 speaks about the Apostle Paul in Athens. Paul who didn’t believe Jesus was the Son of God. But everything changed for Paul when he was traveling on the road to Damascus. When he got his sight back, he realized that God had chosen him for an important mission. He spread the message that God is alive and real. He sent Jesus to be the Saviour for everyone, everywhere. Paul was ready to move wherever God led him. He traveled far and wide to start churches and help people put their faith in Jesus. Like Paul, we should GO where God leads us.

The children enjoyed the VBS very much. Special thanks to all who made the 2023 VBS possible through their support and participation.



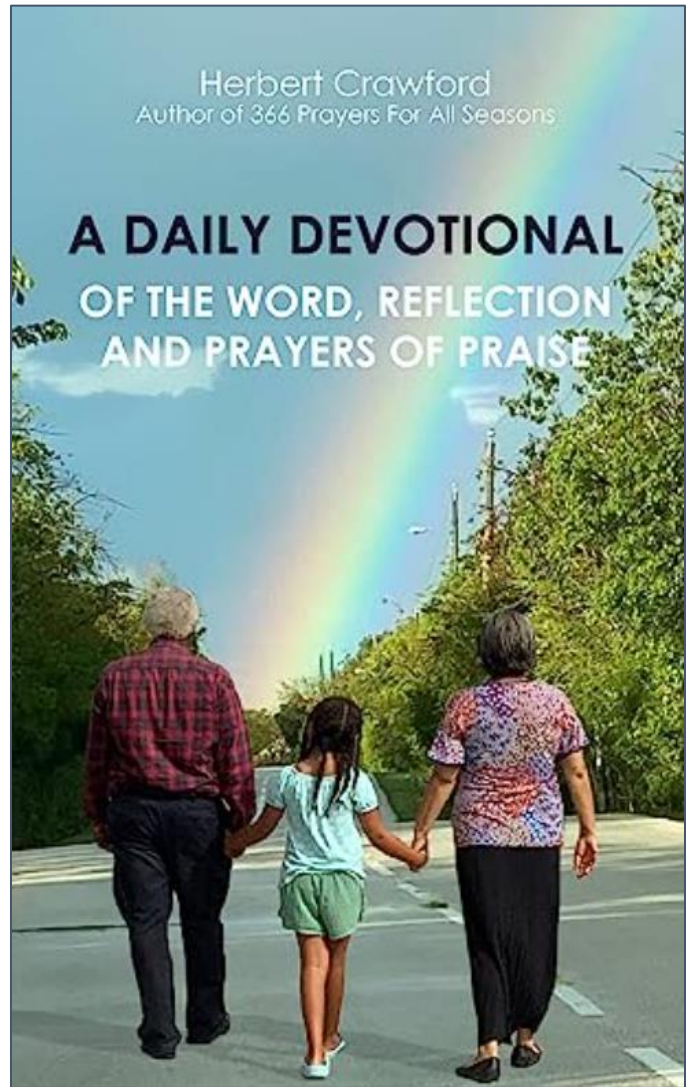
CIRMC COUNCIL MEETING

The next ordinary CIRMC Council Meeting
Will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023,
At 9:00 AM
At the Savannah United Church

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH
INVITES YOU
TO OUR
SPORTS TOURNAMENT
Under the Theme:
'Sharing Christ:
One 2 Ten.'
October 6-7, 2023
Friday
Registration:
6pm
Saturday Finals
4pm
VENUE:
**SAVANNAH UNITED
CHURCH
BASKETBALL COURT**
Request the rules and
registration details via email:
SUCEVANGELISM@GMAIL.COM
Register Now!

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please include in your prayers especially our retired ministers and their loved ones, Rev. Joe Crawford, Rev. Harry Bodden and Rev. Godfrey Meghoo.



The book is available on Amazon.com

**LET'S NOT BE
COMPLACENT.**
**HURRICANE
SEASON IS NOT
OVER YET!**
**HURRICANE
SEASON**



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

September 10, 2023
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