

Why is Worship in a Church Important?

I've sometimes heard people say, "Why do I need to go to church to worship God? I can worship God just as easily while I'm outdoors hiking or playing golf!" Good question. While I would never deny that it's a good thing to worship God by yourself in the creation, I think that a steady diet of worshipping alone leaves out some important parts of worship.

When I worship with others, I am reminded that worship isn't just all about me and God. There are other people to whom I am responsible, whose preferences and needs I need to consider. And I can draw strength from worshipping with others, knowing that they share similar struggles to mine and are praying with and for me.

Also, when I worship alone, I have a tendency to think about the same kinds of things each time. I'm really just thinking my own thoughts. No matter how great my own thoughts are, I need the input of others! Worship provides that, offering the thoughts and feelings of songwriters, the Scripture, and fellow believers. It can help me to see things about myself that I just can't see on my own.

Finally, worshipping with others reminds me that I am part of something greater than myself- Christ's church. And that I share in

the mission of that church. To advocate for justice. To act compassionately. To serve the poor. And to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ with others.

So, go ahead and worship when you're out in God's creation. But also don't neglect to worship with others!