**Worship styles**

* **Who we are is how we worship**
* Creating worship is a **complex task.** ACTS A adoration C confession T thanksgiving S supplication. There are matters of culture, age and resources to be taken into account.
* There are four spiritual styles in worship WORD, EMOTION, SYMBOL and ACTION.

**Candles and chainsaws**

* The leader who is preparing worship, needs to be aware of the **different personalities and needs,** eg, some may love candles, others may like to bring ‘chainsaws i e, more radical or different symbols .
* We must be aware to allow people to express feelings, thoughts whether spoken or silent.

***Questions for consideration.***

* How can you refresh your daily pattern of worship?
* What was the best and worst worship service you have attended and why?
* Share your experience of worshipping in a different culture.

Excerpts from

**Roberts Andrew** *Holy Habits*, Malcolm Down Publishing 2016

Developing Holy Habits

**9. Worship**

**The Adventure of Discipleship**

Discipleship is an adventure, but there will be days when we are more enthusiastic about it and others when we would rather do spiritual equivalent of snuggling back under the duvet !

**The Aim of Discipleship**

The aim of Discipleship is to develop within ourselves a ‘Christ like character‘ as a focus to enable the transformation of the world, so the Kingdom of God can a visible and tangible presence here on earth. Discipleship is personal and relational. It flows from the relationship we have with the one who calls us to follow, Jesus.

**Sacrificial nature of Discipleship**

Sacrifice is at the heart of discipleship and suffering, and to a greater or less extent, it is inevitable on the adventure. Jesus was not slow in challenging Simon Peter and his companions to go beyond their experience and comfort zones, thereby helping them grow in confidence. Sometimes in our discipleship there will be those moments when we are called to go beyond our comfort zones and discover Gods resources in new ways, and there will be times when we need to encourage others to take steps of faith on the adventure of discipleship. However living sacrificially, in obedience to the call of Jesus, may also involve suffering because of our association with the one we follow. This could be in the form of snide comments, being excluded from conversation or activities, or to stand alongside the people whom the rest of society would exclude.

**The Nurture of Discipleship**

As we practice the art of discipleship, so the fruits of holiness and Christ like character emerge and blossom, along with resilience, strength and faith to keep going. We need to learn to live rhythmically if we are to nurture 10 Holy Habits.

**Holy Habits**

If we are to commit ourselves and to encourage our church community to live rhythmically and develop discipleship, then we need guidelines; we need to develop tools to enable us to be ‘Christ like’ in character and focus. In other words, to develop and nurture ‘habits’ and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us on the adventure and excitement of discipleship.

**The Ninth Holy Habit is Worship.**

**What does worship mean for you?**

**Worship as a ‘Way of life’**

* In the Book of Acts, worship was at the **heart of early Christian life.** It was Spirit filled and exuberant praise offered in the home, the temple and on the streets, in public and in private.
* Luke presents people **praising God at every opportunity,** as praise and worship flow from gratitude and thanksgiving for who God is and what God has done.
* Worship is not just about gathering on a Sunday morning, it is much more than this; biblically worship is a way of life. A way of life captured by the ‘**Sheema prayer’**.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*

* Worship is offered as **thanks for all God does in our lives;** our work, our rest, our enjoyment of creation, our service, our eating, our giving and yes, our gathering together with fellow disciples for the focused activity of praise and worship.

**Worship as devotion**

* There are number of different Greek words that are translated into English as ‘worship’, however the most common **is *proskyneo****,* which means *‘to come forward and kiss the back of the hand*’. It is an intimate act, which denotes humility, reverence and devotion.
* It also portrays the amazing grace of God

**Worship as energy**

* Worship should be **transforming and energising**, depending on which worship style is present

**A Rhythm of worship**

* Together with biblical teaching and prayer, worship is a Holy Habit that needs to be **lived rhythmically**.
* It is important that **all gather together** regardless of differences in theologies and personalities
* Worship the first and foremost gift we offer to the divine community of the Holy Trinity. We do so in honour of the God who is Love.
* In a loving healthy relationship with God, we need to have **committed worship**. Worship mist never be used as a ‘drop in to see who the preacher is this week’, but must realise that worship is the response to our faith.
* In 2015 Archbishop Justin Welby said this - *First the church exits to worship God in Jesus Christ; Second the church exits to make new disciples of Jesus Christ*.