Whole life worth-ship

Revelation 7:9-17

John has a vision of a heavenly place that shows many people worshipping God. There are people from every nation, tribe, people group and language, and they worship day and night.

Read this week's passage:



LISTEN

Listen to 'Facedown', Matt Redman, and close your eyes – let the image of falling down in awe of God sink in and spend a few moments thinking about it. You could also sing along – like the saints in John's dream!

Pray

When you start your day, try looking for little moments to help you reframe life as worship. For example, your morning cup of tea or dog walk could be a time of sanctuary and peace. Use these moments to refocus your day.

MAKE

What's your favourite hymn or worship song? What about your top five? Make a playlist or draw up a list with your family or friends of your favourite songs which help you to praise God. Could you 'request' them at church or use them to worship at home?

Living Scripture

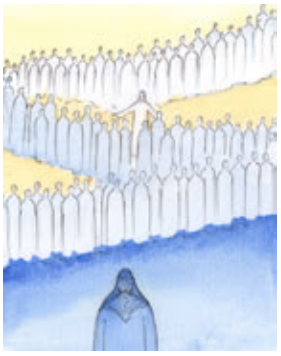
'And they fell on their faces and worshipped God.' Revelation 7:11

In today's reading, we read about John's vision of people kneeling, singing, waving palm branches and shouting praise to God – the whole thing is really quite dramatic!

Does the image of people lying down in front of God seem strange to you? In ancient times, kneeling and lying prostrate was a sign of humility before a ruler. Have we become so sure of ourselves that we have lost the awe and wonder of who God is? How amazing it is that the Creator of the universe loves you – not just everyone – but you. Why not try lying down now and praising God?

Ultimately, there are so many ways to worship – some of us prefer to be alone and silent, others want to dance and sing. Some of us like traditional, some of us modern and some of us just love it all. It's not surprising really – after all we are all so different, why would we want to praise God in the same way? Whatever our preferences are, John's dream reminds us that, we all worship the same God, and it is only when we all come together that God's glory is truly seen in his people.

First impressions



- What (or who) comes to mind when you hear the word 'Saint'?
- What is your response to this painting by Elizabeth Wang – 'Christ Was Strolling Amongst His Saints In Heaven, Paying Personal Attention To Each Of Them' (courtesy of Bridgeman Images)?
- How can we worship God in all aspects of our lives?

Pray

Holy God,
help us to live our lives by the values
of your kingdom.
Open our hearts and minds to all that is good.
When we are afraid or disheartened,
remind us that you are always with us.
Give us the courage to never give up,
remembering that one day we will worship you,
with all your people. Amen.

LOOK

When you read the news or look round your community this week, look for the helpers in the situations you see; there will always be people trying to help, support and make things better. Let this knowledge give you hope and think about how you might become one of the helpers.

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