



The Bell Tower

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The Hope Valley First Baptist Church family makes followers of Christ and worships God through prayer, fellowship, service and the study of the Holy Bible, testifying to the glory of His Name.

Pastor's Note

"Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down" Series on worship, #1

Those of you participating in our book study of *The Thrill of Orthodoxy: Rediscovering the Adventure of Christian Faith*, may recall the author's definition of orthodoxy,

Throughout this book, I will use the term orthodoxy to refer to the foundational truths, consistent with the Scriptures, upon which Christians through the ages have demonstrated agreement. Orthodoxy is the historic Christian consensus on the essential elements of true faith and practice, what has been believed "everywhere, always, and by all. (p. 9)

Though the author nicely explains and applies the basic doctrines of the Christian faith, one subject neither he nor the creeds cover is that of Christian worship. This makes sense, worship is not something that lends itself to being prescribed and universalized. Every culture, and each individual, worships out of who they are and where they live. A church worship service will look very different in Hope Valley and Haiti. In fact, worship may look very different between you and the person sitting next to you in church this Sunday.

But is corporate worship little more than a consumer item like a favorite color? Is the only criterion that it makes one "feel" like they are worshipping?

In a series of articles, I want to discuss worship along the same lines that Christian author and professor Trevin Wax discusses the Christian creeds. In this first article, I want to establish some basic truths, some "orthodoxy," about worship.

To begin, let me share just two points. The first is an observation; the second is a comment about our English word worship.

First, an observation: We have no detailed first-century evidence of an entire Christian worship service. We know some things that were part of early Christian worship, but we don't know all of the thing. We don't have a worship service that was written on papyrus or parchment like we have Sunday morning worship bulletins that we run through a printer. While this observation should be obvious, to listen to what some people say about worship, it evidently isn't.

Continued...

Contrary to what some people seem to think, there is no worship liturgy as it might have been practiced by the apostles and believers at the time of the New Testament. There are what are called “patristic sources,” documents written early in the history of the church that shed light on the subject, but none were penned during the writing of the New Testament.

For instance, there is an interesting document called, *The Didache*, or “The Teaching of the Twelve,” discovered in Constantinople in 1875 that astounded the world of biblical studies. But a problem with the *Didache* is that no one is sure when it was written. Most scholars estimate it was written between the end of the first century to the middle of the second century. But using even the most conservative figures of authorship, between the years 100 to 125, still leaves a lot of time for early worship styles to change and develop.

So my first observation is that we have no detailed first-century evidence of an entire Christian service. We have bits and pieces, but no detailed order of service.

Second, a comment on the word “worship.”

Worship is a topic of such a magnitude I doubt anyone can explain it adequately, yet people talk about worship as if it can be reduced to “traditional” versus “contemporary” music.

I smiled while reading the book, *Real Worship: It Will Transform Your Life*, and noticed the seasoned pastor and author, Warren Wiersbe, entitled his first chapter, “Chapter 1: In which the author admits his frustration.” Even someone as learned and experienced as Warren Wiersbe begins by admitting that writing about worship is frustrating!

But “worship” is only one word. Maybe by looking at how it is used in the Bible we can come up with some ideas concerning Biblical worship (maybe).

Let me begin with two points about the English word worship and its use in the Old and New Testaments.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word, *saha*, meaning what we understand as worship, is used about 170 times and is translated by a number of English words, including “worship,” depending on the context and the English translation.

In the New Testament, the Greek word, *proskyneo*, is used about 60 times, and, like the Hebrew *saha*, is often translated as “worship,” but not in every instance.

Worship is so broad and deep that there is no one-to-one relationship between any Hebrew or Greek word and our English “worship.” But even our word is not simple. Here is an observation from someone who has spent a lot of time studying the history of the English word:

“Both the noun and the verb form have changed in meaning significantly over the centuries. Although from the tenth century on the word worship often had God as its object, nevertheless from the 1200s on it was often connected with the condition of deserving honor or a good reputation or with the source or ground of that honor. Chaucer, for instance, can say that it is a great worship to a man to keep himself from noise and strife. Knights win worship by their feats of arms. In the fifteenth century a ‘place of worship’ may be a good house, and a ‘town of worship’ is an important town. By easy transfer, worship came to refer to the honor itself that is shown a person or thing. That usage goes back a thousand years, and it is by no means restricted to God as the object. For example, in the marriage service of the old English Prayer Book the groom tells his bride, ‘With my body I thee worship’ — which certainly does not make her a deity.

Continued...

“In all such usages one is concerned with the ‘worthiness’ or the ‘worship’ (Old English weorthscipe) of the person or thing that is referenced. From a Christian perspective, of course, only God himself is truly worthy of all possible honor, so it is not surprising that in most of our English Bibles, ‘worship’ is bound up either with the worship of God or with the prohibition of worship of other beings.”

– D. A. Carson, *Worship by the Book*, p. 18.

In closing, our thinking about worship should result in the following:

1) Worship should expand our vision of God, deepen our experience with God, and broaden our love for God and for one another.

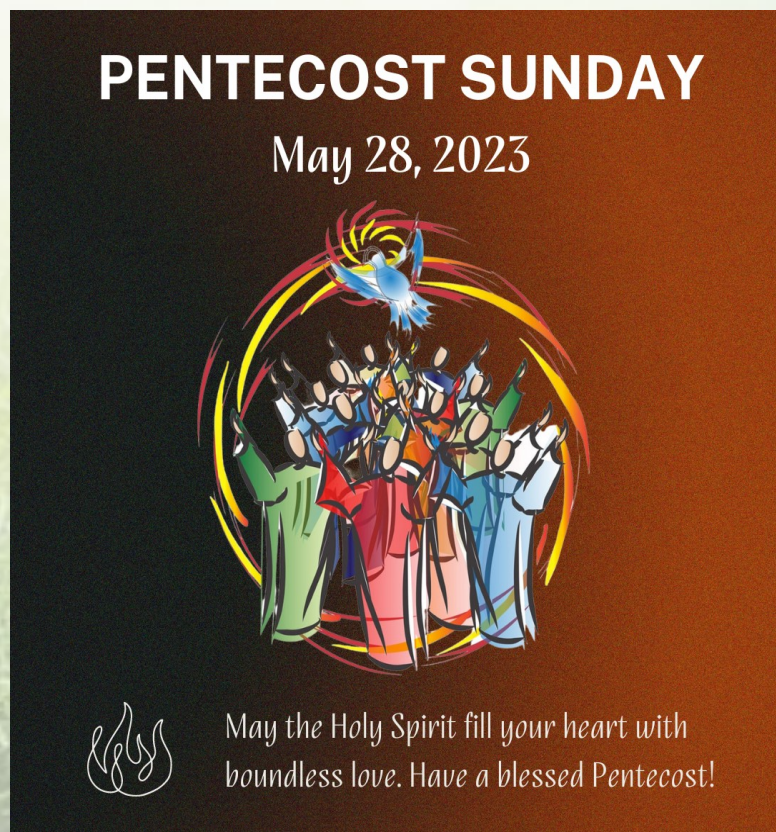
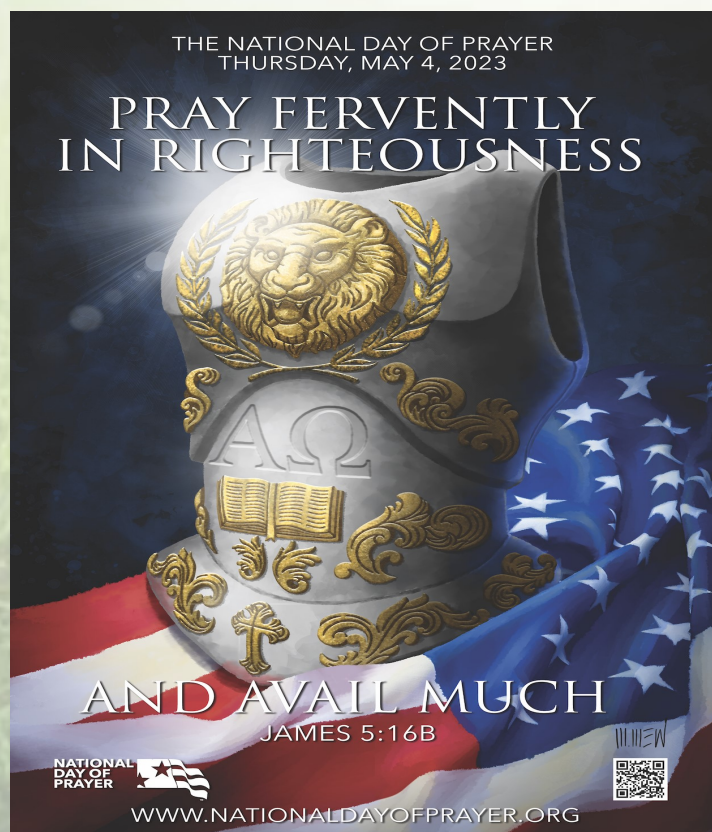
Every form of corporate worship, from a “cutting edge” contemporary style to the most ancient liturgical form, can suffer from the same malady: Routine. Anything we do time after time can soon go from being exciting to just going through the motions. Whether it’s your job, exercise, any daily routine, or how you worship God, it is all subject to becoming rote; not only something you can do in your sleep but something you do in your sleep! Let the reader beware!

What does this tell us about our worship of God? At a minimum, we probably should take worship more seriously. What does it say about our worship if it is void of any sense of intent, thought, or interest?

I wonder if it would help to think of worship more like a hobby than an obligation. While an obligation is something you have to do, a hobby is something you enjoy doing. It’s something you want to do, something you can’t wait to do, something you want to participate in and be part of. Corporate worship should not be something you have to do because it’s 10:30 on a Sunday morning.

2) Worship should remind us that God desires our worship.

We will look at this verse in more detail later but consider the end of John 4:23 where Jesus informs us, “...for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers.” Maybe this truth is what we need to discover (or rediscover): the eternal God seeks our worship. But who are these people Jesus refers to? We will consider that question at a future date. For now, A. W. Tozer reminds us, “God is trying to call us back to that for which He created us, to worship Him and to enjoy Him forever.”



WHAT'S NEW?



BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday — May 10, 2023
10:00 AM — Nichols Board

1st Tuesday — May 2, 2023

6:00 PM — Trustees

2nd Tuesday — May 9, 2023

6:00 PM — Deacons

6:30 PM — Christian Ed.

7:30 PM — General Board

Friday, May 26, 2023 — 10:00 AM — Missions

May Happy Birthday!

- 1 — Robert Krogg
- 6 — Pamela Thomas
- 7 — Debbie Hull
- 15 — Irene Oguoma
- 16 — Roderick Dair
- 17 — Thomas Bressette
- 28 — Louise Kent
- 28 — Neil Spencer
- 31 — Jayne Scorpio

10:00 AM



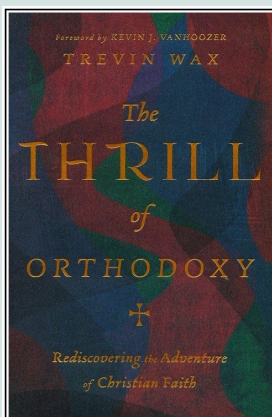
PERMANENT CHANGE IN WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

After polling the congregation, the General Board voted to change worship service hours to 10:00 AM.

This change will take place on July 2, 2023. These hours will be in effect year-round.

Thank you for participating in the poll.

The Thrill of Orthodoxy book study at FBHV every Sunday, in two classes: at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



May 29, 2023

REMEMBER
THOSE WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED THIS

Memorial Day

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,
THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

JOHN 15:13 NKJV

Charm is deceptive, and beauty
is fleeting; but a woman
who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending
favor, kindness and love this

Mother's Day

and always.

May 14, 2023

MEMORIAL DAY COOKOUT

MAY 28, AT 1 PM

FREE COOKOUT-HOTDOGS

ALL WELCOME!

COME AND WATCH THE PARADE WITH US.

First Baptist Church in Hope Valley
1059 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI

We are asking our church family to donate side dishes, cookies/squares, etc.
See Gayle Ashworth with any questions, or call the office at 401-539-7553.



THE LATEST FACTS AND FIGURES

[HTTPS://RIFOODBANK.ORG/WHAT-WE-DO/HUNGER-FACTS-RESOURCES/](https://rifoodbank.org/what-we-do/hunger-facts-resources/)

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank distributes food to people in need through a statewide network of 150 member agencies including food pantries, meal sites, shelters, youth programs and senior centers.

Throughout the pandemic, the Food Bank has continued to serve more than 54,000 Rhode Islanders each month through our network of member agencies.

The Food Bank solicits food donations from the public and from the food industry, including supermarkets, food manufacturers and growers. To keep up with the high demand for food assistance, the Food Bank also purchases food at a low cost from wholesalers. Last year, **the Food Bank distributed 15.1 million pounds of food.**

We collect non-perishable food items on 2nd Sunday of the month. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the designated containers located at the front and side entrances to the church.

NOTE: Please check expiration dates on all donations. Or you could make a check out to "First Baptist Church" designated for New Hope Food Pantry in the memo line. Funds will be forwarded to New Hope.

Women's Online Bible Study

The ladies are studying the book Romans chapter by chapter every Monday at 7 PM via ZOOM. Please see or email Lori Roeleveld at lorisroel@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

*When the cares of my
heart are many, your
consolations cheer my
soul.*



PSALM 94:19



What's Happening at Canonicus

Wondering about events and programs at ABCORI's Canonicus Camp and Conference Center? The best sources for accurate, up-to-date information are the *Connections* newsletter; the [ABCORI](#) and [Canonicus](#) websites; and the official [ABCORI](#) and [Canonicus](#) Facebook pages.

ABCORI is excited about its summer 2023 opportunities at Canonicus, including Beaver Days, Service Camp, A Grand Adventure, and Global Mission Camp. More information about each of these can be found in this issue.

If your church would like to plan a retreat, meeting, camp, worship service, vacation Bible school, or other gathering at ABCORI's Canonicus Camp and Conference Center, contact, campandconference@abcori.org to inquire about availability and pricing.

See you at Canonicus!

Save the Date!

ABCORI Service Camp an intergenerational experience



Joining Hands & Hearts

Friday evening, June 30-Sunday morning, July 2
Canonicus Camp & Conference Center

Visit www.canonicus.org/abcori-mission-camp
for info and registration materials.

ABCORI Hosts Fire Evacuees

On April 14, a massive brush fire burned approximately 600 acres of the Queen River Nature Preserve, just a few miles from ABCORI's Canonicus Camp and Conference Center. Although smoke was clearly visible from Canonicus, the facility was not endangered by the fire.

At the request of the Rhode Island State Police, ABCORI assisted in the response to the fire by hosting day students who had to be evacuated from Exeter Job Corps. The students were bussed from Job Corps to Canonicus and gathered at the pavilion until being picked up by their families at the end of the school day.

Special thanks to ABCORI staff Matt Black, Michael Cunningham, and Beth Hollis for coordinating with emergency responders, providing refreshments, and welcoming the students to Canonicus.



Beaver Days

May 13 & June 17

ABCORI's Canonicus Camp & Conference Center

We are looking for busy beavers (aka, volunteers) to come to Canonicus on Saturday, May 13, and Saturday, June 17, and help open the program areas and shelters in the woods for the summer. Work days will run from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., with lunch provided.

May 13: Volunteers will focus on raking and clearing leaves and debris from the fall and winter. Areas will include the Council Ring and fire pits; Benediction Chapel and paths; and ropes course.

June 17: Volunteers will focus on cleaning the shelters, bathhouse, and craft shack.

Although each day has its own focus, there will be many projects for all skill levels, such as cleaning, painting/staining, and installing window air conditioners. If there is a particular project that you or your group would like to do, please let us know. We will make the appropriate arrangements as possible.

Advance registration is helpful! (We want to make sure we have enough lunch, tools, and projects for everyone.) To register, contact Matt Black at matt@abcori.org or (401) 249-9315.



**REIGNE AND JUN (MARIA GILL'S
SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW)**
Currently serving as
missionaries in Nepal.

Thank you, volunteers, for keeping our church grounds beautiful. We appreciate you!



Easter Sunrise Service 2023
April 9, 2023 / 6 AM



[©]
Diane Kenney

Love Like Mom

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Today's Scripture & Insight:

1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

Juanita told her nephew about growing up during the Great Depression. Her poor family only had apples to eat, plus whatever wild game her dad might provide. Whenever he bagged a squirrel for dinner, her mom would say, "Give me that squirrel head. That's all I want to eat. It's the best piece of meat." Years later Juanita realized there wasn't any meat on a squirrel's head. Her mom didn't eat it. She only pretended it was a delicacy "so us kids could get more to eat and we wouldn't worry about her."

As we celebrate Mother's Day tomorrow, may we also recount stories of our mothers' devotion. We thank God for them and strive to love more like them.

Paul served the Thessalonian church "as a nursing mother cares for her children" (1 Thessalonians 2:7). He loved fiercely, fighting through "strong opposition" to tell them about Jesus and to share his own life with them (vv. 2, 8). He "worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while [he] preached the gospel of God to [them]" (v. 9). Just like Mom.

Few can resist a mother's love, and Paul modestly said his efforts were "not without results" (v. 1). We can't control how others respond, but we can choose to show up, day after day, to serve them in a sacrificial way. Mom would be proud, and so will our heavenly Father.

By: **Mike Wittmer** (<https://odb.org/US/2022/05/07/love-like-mom>)



♥ Mother's Day ♥

WORD SEARCH

H	W	F	A	J	B	K	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	X
L	O	L	D	B	G	K	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L
O	F	O	T	T	E	B	O	H	Y	E	F	J	W	F
V	Q	W	F	X	E	A	O	O	O	C	I	X	K	A
E	A	E	K	Y	D	G	U	U	M	L	C	R	C	M
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G	F	T	P	X	P	K	R	E	F	P	E	B	T	T

BEAUTIFUL
BOUQUET
CARING
CELEBRATE
CHILDREN

FAMILY
FLOWERS
GRATEFUL
HOLIDAY
HUGS

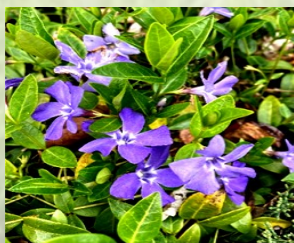
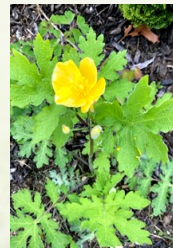
KISSES
LOVE
MOTHER
PARENT
SPECIAL

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Springtime Around the Church



Colorful tulips in their beds
Narcissus with their double heads
Alyssum, celandine, periwinkle, and phlox
Nestled among the gardens and rocks



Pink flowering crabapple trees
Attract pollen seeking bumblebees
There's magnolia, forsythia, and scented lilac
While the mallards on the pond join in the fun out back.

By: *Elaine Kenney*

