

What is worship? Acts of religious praise, honour or devotion. It is a way for Christians to show their love and honour to God.

R.S. Revision: Christian Practices

Why do people worship? It brings a sense of 'community', can feel closer to God, can ask for forgiveness, a way of expressing their faith, a way to praise/ thank God, a way to strengthen their connection with God.

Different forms of worship

	Key features	Advantage	Disadvantage
Liturgical worship: <i>A church service that follows a set pattern or structure</i>	<i>Takes place in Catholic and Church of England churches. Follows a set structure e.g. set prayer, Roman Catholic mass (not improvised, Bible readings and hymns. E.g. Catholic Eucharist, Anglican Churches</i>	<i>Knowing what to expect-good if you're going to a new church, rituals can be passed down generations-gives a sense of tradition</i>	<i>Possibly a bit old fashioned, might become bit boring</i>
Non-liturgical worship: <i>A service that does not follow a set text or ritual</i>	<i>Often Bible-based. Often follow a basic structure (e.g. hymn, prayer, reading etc.) but the person leading the worship has free choice within that structure (e.g. which hymn/ reading etc.). E.g. Methodist churches</i>	<i>Good combination of some structure & some freedom. Can chose a relevant theme</i>	<i>Only service leader that has any choice, not the individuals</i>
Informal worship: charismatic worship <i>A type of non-liturgical worship, that is sometimes spontaneous</i>	<i>Still has things such as hymns and readings (like other types of worship) but is a lot more free-flowing, might include singing or speaking in tongues. E.g. Quaker meetings- informal worship with no leader/ set structure. People tend to sit in chairs in silence until someone feels the need to share their thoughts.</i>	<i>A relaxed atmosphere, it is more 'from the heart', people can take part in church without formal training</i>	<i>Don't always know what to expect</i>
Private worship: <i>When a believer praises God on his/ her own</i>	<i>Can still be liturgical (e.g. a Catholic saying the rosary) or non-liturgical (a meditation). Saying the rosary: running a set of beads through your hands and saying set prayers while touching each bead. Meditation involves focusing on a stimulus (e.g. a picture) or thinking about the meaning of a Bible passage.</i>	<i>Can take place anywhere, person can worship exactly how they want to</i>	<i>Don't always have a 'community' feeling in private worship</i>

The Bible features in all types of worship as many Christians think it's inspired by God, or the word of God. Section of the Bible may be read, sermons may be based on a particular Bible passage and many hymns are based on the Bible.

Private worship

Why might some Christians prefer to worship in a Church?

- ✓ There is a special atmosphere there that you don't get anywhere else
- ✓ There are lots of visual things that can help you to focus, such as lots of symbols and stained glass windows
- ✓ There is a sense of community from being around other Christians

Why might some Christians prefer to worship in private?

- ✓ There are less people and less distractions around you, so it is easier to concentrate
- ✓ It might be difficult to get to the Church
- ✓ Praying to God is a personal thing, so it should be private

What other reasons can you think of?



Prayer

What is prayer? Prayer is a way to speak to God, perhaps to ask God for something, to seek God's guidance or to thank God. Jesus said that it is important to be honest during prayer

Jesus said that prayer should be a personal thing- we don't need to go around telling everyone about it, and if we ask God for things, God will respond;

When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6)

Why is prayer important?

- It's an important way of building a relationship with God.
- Can give Christians strength in difficult times.
- It encourages reflection when life can be busy.
- It allows Christians to talk and listen to God.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you (Matthew 7)

SET PRAYERS: Prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person. (Part of liturgical worship, but also private worship). Some set prayers come from the Bible.

Informal prayers: prayers made up by an individual person using his/ her own words. Some feel this is more 'from the heart' & is a chance for Christians to use their own words.

- A set prayer
- The prayer that Jesus taught his disciples
- A model of a good prayer
- It reminds Christians to forgive others in order to be forgiven
- The Lord's prayer is often used as part of worship and is almost always said during Holy communion, baptisms, marriages and funerals

The Gospels tell us that this is how Jesus said people should pray...

Our loving God that is in heaven (not human)- we are all part of God's family

Give to us what we need

We must forgive others as we expect God to forgive us

God is almighty and deserves glory

The Lord's prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory.
for ever and ever.
Amen

The prayer that Jesus taught his disciples

God should be respected

God is our King and Gods plans will be fulfilled

People do make mistakes and want to be forgiven by God

Help us to resist temptations and evils

'So be it'- Christians mean what they say

The sacraments

Sacrament: The external and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace

A sacrament is an '**outward**' ceremony that signifies a **change within**- a sacrament is a holy ritual through which a Christian receives a special gift of God's grace (free gift of God's love).

There are 7 sacraments that are recognised by Orthodox Christians, Catholics and some Anglican Christians; Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (confession), Healing, Marriage and ordination (becoming a priest). Protestant Christians tend to only recognise baptism and the Eucharist. Some sacraments signify moving from one stage in life to another. The Eucharist is a bit different because it is the only sacrament that is 'taken' frequently. The sacrament of marriage unites the couple, and God, in a lifelong loving relationship. Some Christians think that the 7 sacraments allow them to grow closer to God. Quakers and members of the Salvation Army reject all sacraments because they claim there is no reference to most of them in the Bible; they believe that God speaks directly to people's hearts and there is no need for any kind of 'go-between'

The sacraments: Baptism

When John the Baptist baptised people it was a symbol of forgiving sins and preparing for a new life. Jesus was baptised by John (his cousin). Before he ascended to heaven Baptism is practised by almost all Christian churches (in different ways).

Jesus told his disciples to baptise people in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit

Why is baptism important to Christians?

- It is an initiation rite that welcomes someone into the Christian community
- Cleans away original sin
- The individual is considered a 'child of God'
- The individual receives God's saving grace and the

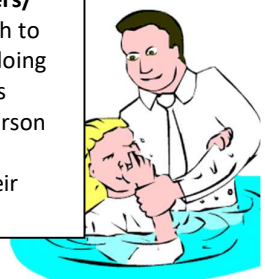
Why Christians support Infant baptism

(baptising a BABY): It's natural for parents to want to bring up their child as a Christian from the start, it allows the child to receive the other sacraments, it washes away original sin from the start, It welcomes the child into a Christian community, and the parents can thank God for their new baby.



Why Christians support Believers baptism (baptising teenagers/ adults):

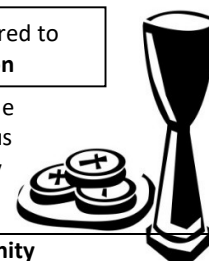
They are old enough to really know what they are doing so it means more, Jesus was baptized as an adult, the person is making the decision for themselves (rather than their parent making it for them).



Infant baptism (baptising a BABY)	Believers baptism (baptising teenagers/ adults)
- Practised by many Christian churches. The service differs slightly but in ALL services the water is important: - Catholic and Anglican churches use a font (where the water is kept) and pour water over the baby's head three times. In orthodox churches the baby is immersed into the water in the font. - The water symbolises washing away of original sin - <u>Other features</u> found in many baptisms: - <i>Bible readings & prayer</i> - <i>Anointing 2 oils to symbolise receiving strength to fight evil</i> - <i>Making the sign of the cross on the child's head</i> - <i>Promises made by parents and god parents- they have a duty to bring the child up as a Christian</i> - <i>Lighting a candle (a sign the child has received the light of Jesus)</i>	- Baptist and Pentecostal churches only baptise teenagers and adults; it is believed it means more as they are old enough to make the decision to be baptised. Jesus was also baptised as an adult. - Water is important, but it involves being totally immersed into the water (so using a font doesn't work!). Often there is a tank of water called a 'baptistry'- the water is about thigh high and the person can step down into the tank - White clothes are worn as a sign of new life - The person explains their reasons for being baptised and commits to a life in the Christian faith - He/she walks down steps into the water (symbolising the end of the old life of sin), he/she is then leant back into the water and is baptised, before leaving the water via another set of steps (symbolising the start of a new life) - A handshake may then welcome them into the Christian community

The Sacraments: Holy Communion/ Eucharist

Eucharist- can also be referred to as **Mass** or **Holy Communion**



This is another one of the sacraments. The Eucharist is when Christians take bread and wine to remember the blood and body of Jesus. This also reminds Christians of the last supper before the death of Jesus, when Jesus gave bread and wine to his disciples to symbolise his body and blood. Jesus told the disciples that when they have bread and wine they should remember his body and blood.

Roman Catholic Mass	Eucharist in protestant Christianity
Catholics believe in transubstantiation - they believe during mass the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus; this means Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine (Orthodox Christians and some Anglicans also believe this). Mass will take place quite regularly in the Catholic church, and it is considered a sacrament for Catholics. Roman Catholic mass includes the opportunity for worshippers to confess their sins and be offered forgiveness, Bible readings, prayers, and a sermon. A prayer is said when the bread and wine are at the altar before the congregation stand before the priest to receive the consecrated (blessed) bread and wine. The wine is sipped from a chalice (special cup- shared by everyone).	Protestants do not believe in transubstantiation- the bread and wine are considered symbols of Jesus' sacrifice. Eucharist in protestant churches is often much simpler, and may not be offered as regularly as it is in other denominations. Those wishing to participate gather at the front of the church, a version of the last supper story is read by the minister before the bread and wine is given out. The wine (or a non-alcoholic alternative) may be given out in individual glasses. A prayer will also be said.

Holy Communion can affect individuals: Individuals become closer to God & receive God's grace (which strengthens their faith).

Holy Communion can affect communities: sharing the bread and wine brings the community together, which can provide support for anyone going through a difficult time. **Holy Communion can affect wider society:** it encourages Christians to work for equality, many churches collect money during communion to support those in need

Pilgrimage- two contrasting examples

Pilgrimage: A journey made by a religious person to a place of religious significance

Why might Christians decide to go on a pilgrimage?

- Possibility of being healed
- Want to make up for their sins
- Want to feel part of a community
- Want to have time to concentrate on their faith/ 'renew' their faith
- Want to visit somewhere that is important.

How might going on a pilgrimage affect a Christian?

- Gives them a better understanding of their faith
- Helps them feel cleansed of their sins
- Gives them a renewed enthusiasm for their faith
- Helps them feel more connected to God/ the Christian community

Why is Lourdes an important place for Christians? In 1858, the Mary appeared several times to a 14 year old girl, Bernadette. Mary told her to dig in the ground; when she did she found a spring of water. Over time people reported they had been 'healed', and today the water from the spring is thought to have some kind of healing 'powers'. What Christians might do on a pilgrimage here: bathe in the waters of the spring, pray for healing/ forgiveness, recite the rosary, spend time in the grotto/ Church. Lots of people will act as 'helpers' for the disabled pilgrims. The torchlight procession takes place once each day, and pilgrims are invited to carry a candle to remind them of baptism.

Why is Iona an important place for Christians? St Columba arrived to this small island off the coast of Scotland in 563CE. He came to convert people to Christianity. He set up a monastic community, which now has a centre where people can stay. What Christians might do on a pilgrimage here: spend time praying/ reading the Bible/ reflecting/ meditating/ attend services and visit the island's holy and historic sites.

Christmas and Easter

CHRISTMAS: Celebrates the birth of Jesus. It is an important time when Christians are thankful for God's gift (Jesus Christ). Remind yourself why Jesus is so important- look at the Christian beliefs section on 'The trinity' and 'The Messiah'

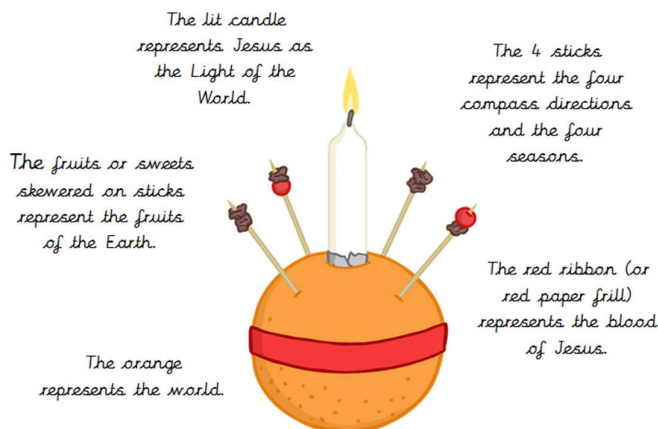
The story of Jesus' birth is told in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke.

EASTER: Celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is important to Christians as the suffering endured by Jesus was to bring all of humanity closer to God and allow them to get to heaven. Christians do certain things during 'Holy week' to remember what happened to Jesus

The story of Jesus' resurrection is told in the Gospels.

How do Christians celebrate Christmas?

- Attend midnight mass at church on Christmas Eve. The church is very dark to begin with, and lights come on when the story of Jesus's birth is being read. This is to symbolise that Jesus is considered 'the light of the world'.
- Churches may have a Christingle service where children are given Christingles (made from fruits, a candle & an orange).
- Exchanging presents is symbolic of the gifts Jesus received from the wise



How do Christians celebrate Easter?

- On Good Friday (the day Jesus was crucified) there are special services and processions led by a person carrying a cross. This is a sad day and there are no decorations in the Church.
- On Saturday night some churches hold a special service to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Orthodox Christians walk with candles in procession and enter the dark church as if going into Jesus' tomb. Catholics and Anglicans have a vigil that begins in darkness, before the paschal candle is lit to symbolise the risen Christ (the service ends with Holy Communion).
- Easter Sunday is a happy day as it commemorates when Jesus rose from the dead- there will now be decorations in the church. Easter eggs may be given to symbolise 'new life'. Special Church services will be held.

The role of the church in the local community

What does the Church do?

Individual churches may: educate people about Christianity, provide a meeting place for prayer and worship, provide activities for younger people such as youth clubs, act as a place where Christians can socialise and seek guidance. **The Church as a whole** may: support local projects such as food banks, provide services such as schooling and medical care, help those in need, campaign for justice.

The phrase 'The Church' is often used to refer to the Church as a whole, rather than an individual Church.

The importance of helping others

Christians think it is very important to do their bit to help others, because this is what Jesus did (and taught), and Jesus in the ultimate role model for Christians. Jesus always had time for other people, including people rejected by society, such as tax collectors and prostitutes. Jesus did not discriminate. This encourages Christians to work with 'modern-day sinners and outcasts' and be willing to help everyone.

Christians may help people in need by:

- Getting involved in charity work, such as helping with food banks or soup kitchens.
- Becoming a street pastor
- Getting involved in missionary work

In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus told his disciples that whatever they did for other people (no matter how small), they did it for him (Jesus)- this encourages Christians to help others

Examples of the church helping the local community:

The Trussell Trust

- A charity running 400+ food banks in the UK
- Provides emergency food, help & support to people in crisis
- Food is donated by churches, schools, individuals etc.
- People are identified and given food vouchers by doctors/ health visitors/ social workers

Street Pastors

- These are Christians who go onto the streets (usually Friday/ Saturday nights) to care for people who are drinking/ clubbing/ fighting etc.
- This began in 2003 in Brixton but now happens in over 270 towns and cities. In the UK there are over 20,000 street pastors.
- This can be challenging and involves several months of training for the role of 'street pastor'.

Salvation Army

- A Christian denomination that was started in the 19th century by William and Catherine Booth- they were shocked at the deprivation they saw and they felt Churches weren't doing enough to help.
- The salvation army helps the poor by; setting up soup kitchens and hostels, giving out toys at Christmas, offering advice on things like getting out of debt and getting a job, giving out food and baby supplies, setting up community vegetable gardens so people can grow their own vegetables (and much more).

Mission, Evangelism and Church growth

Mission: A vocation or 'calling' to spread the Christian faith
Evangelism: Spreading the faith by telling others about it

'Go and make
disciples of all nations'

Jesus gave a Great Commission to his disciples- he instructed them to spread the gospel. All Christians have a duty to spread the gospel and tell others about their faith. The aim of evangelism and missionary work is to persuade people to accept Jesus as their Saviour, and to extend the Church to all nations.

Examples of Evangelism and Missionary work...

The Church Army: an Anglican organisation that is committed to evangelism. Evangelists are trained for several years and are committed to helping people find faith. The church army is involved with things such as: visiting the elderly, acting as chaplains in hospitals or prisons, working with drug addicts, running clubs for children and running projects for young people.

Christian mission and evangelism in the world: Serving in Mission (SIM) is an international organisation with a base in the UK. Mission workers are sent across the world to work with people. For instance, the Nigerian branch of SIM has sent trained pastors to run trauma healing workshops in an area where the Boko Haram terrorist group has been violent towards Christians.

The growth of the Church:

The Church is growing rapidly in South America, Asia & Africa, but not in the USA, Europe & the middle east. Worldwide around 80, 000 people become Christians each day. Christians are expected to help spread the Christian faith and help the Church to grow. They can do this by: praying for others to accept God, invite people to Christian meetings/ events, use social media to 'advertise', tell others about what God has done for them.

The Ichthus fellowship: Takes its name from the ichthus symbol (the fish)- this was a symbol used by Christians to represent Jesus Christ, God's son and saviour. The fellowship started to help the Christian community grow by establishing new 'link' churches in communities. The main aim is to worship Jesus and services in these churches attract hundreds of people.

'Fresh expressions of Church': a term that the Church of England came up with. This term describes new churches that have a different approach than the church that 'planted' them as it is intended for a different group of people. E.g. a church for young people in a skate park (often not in a traditional church building)

The worldwide church (imp, responses to persecutions, one charities work)

Reconciliation

Reconciliation= bringing people together again & mending the relationship. Working for reconciliation is important for Christians.

In a letter to the Christians of Corinth, St Paul wrote that God reconciled the relationship between God and the people

Corrymeela is a centre- an open village in Ireland that was set up to help people to learn to get along. This stemmed from 'The Troubles' (conflict in Northern Ireland between 1968-1998). Corrymeela helps families to work through difficult times, works with schools to encourage positive citizenship and helps people to learn about and learn from the troubles.

In 1940 Coventry Cathedral was bombed, the next day the head of the cathedral wrote 'Father forgive' on the wall- he was committed to working for reconciliation once the war ended. Three nails from the original building were made into a cross. After the war Coventry made links with 3 German cities. Coventry Cathedral became a centre for reconciliation and the community of **the cross of the nails** was born; there is a global network of people committed to praying for peace and reconciliation.

Persecution

Persecution is hostility (unfriendliness), ill-treatment. The early Christian community faced persecution, including being hunted and executed. It is likely that Jesus and his followers faced hostility in his lifetime (because the idea of a Son of God was against Judaism, the religion at that time). But Jesus taught people to 'love their enemies' and not seek revenge

In the New Testament, Peter's first letter was to Christians facing persecution. They were told that they were sharing in the suffering of Jesus and to trust God to help them.

This inspires Christians to respond to persecution with love and forgiveness, not hate. It also encourages Christians to support people who are being persecuted.

Open doors is an organisation that supports persecuted Christians by: providing food/ medical kits/ safe homes etc, campaigning and fighting for justice, offering trauma counselling, helping people find jobs and raising awareness.

Poverty

Less economically developed countries (LEDs) are the poorest countries in the world. Many religious aid agencies help people in LEDs (for reasons such as: the poorest countries need the most help, they have very limited education and healthcare, people struggle to survive). Christians can also thank God by helping others. These agencies provide: Emergency Aid- such as food, water, blankets and medical kits, Short-term Aid- such as helping families to recover from disasters by helping them to rebuild homes, Long-term Aid- such as training medical workers, digging wells for water and setting up educational programmes to enable communities to become self-sufficient.

'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions'

CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund are all involved in: Campaigning (e.g. petitions, peaceful protests), Increasing public awareness (e.g. producing educational resources for schools), Fund-raising to fund their work. ALL 3 charities encourage people to support the Fairtrade movement which ensures farmers and producers are paid a fair price for their goods.

Practise Questions

4 marks	5 marks	12 marks
• Explain two contrasting ways in which the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated in Christianity • Explain two ways celebrating Holy communion can affect the lives of believers • Explain two reasons why the Lord's prayer is important to Christians • Explain two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage • Explain two ways a church can support their local community • Explain two ways the church can help work for reconciliation • Explain two reasons Christians practise evangelism	○ Explain two ways in which Christian street pastors carry out their Christian duty. ○ Explain two ways Christians help people in need ○ Explain two ways in which a Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas ○ Explain two ways Christians celebrate Easter ○ Explain two ways Christians celebrate Christmas ○ Explain two ways a Christian relief organisation carries out its missions overseas ○ Explain two ways in which mission is important to Christians today (Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer)	• 'The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is by practising prayer' • 'It is more important to help the poor than celebrate holy communion' • 'The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is by practising prayer.' • 'Christmas is the most important time for a Christian.' • 'Worship is more powerful when believers follow a set ritual' • 'Believers baptism is more meaningful than infant baptism' • 'There will always be a need to feed hungry people in Britain' (Evaluate this statement)

Explain two ways Christians help people in need. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

*Christians may help people in need by getting involved in some charity work. For example...
Some Christians may also become a street pastor. A street pastor is someone who ...
The parable of the sheep and the goats encourages Christians to...*

Can you use this frame to write a top mark answer?

Explain two ways a Christian relief organisation carries out its missions overseas [4 marks]

One way that Christian Aid carries out its mission overseas is to provide emergency relief when there is a disaster. Another way they help is by setting up longer-term programmes that encourage sustainable development.

This answer is worth 2 marks; both points need to be developed (perhaps by giving an example), and there is no reference to scripture. Can you re-write this answer to get the full 5 marks?

Explain two ways in which mission is important to Christians today [4 marks]

How do you think this answer could be improved?

Mission is important to Christians today because according to the Gospels, Jesus told his disciples to go and make everyone a Christian. It is also important because it means that people get to hear the Christian message.

'It is more important to help the poor rather than celebrate holy communion' Evaluate this statement... (12)

Can you write a top mark answer to this question, using these points to help you? Remember for 12 mark questions you only need TWO agree points and TWO disagree points (but they must be well explained!)

Agree: The poor are in need of urgent help, Christians are taught to love their neighbour and put others first, Holy communion is nice but of no use to anyone as it is just focusing on the past

Disagree: no need to choose between them, breaking the bread helps to remind Christians there are starving people in the world who need help, many churches collect money for the poor during these services- encouraging people to care for the poor.

'It is more important to pray in private than worship in a Church' Evaluate this statement... (12)

Look at the example paragraph below, can you write the rest of the answer?

Some Christians may disagree with this because there is a special atmosphere in a Church that you don't get anywhere else. For examples, being in a Church allows you to feel part of the Christian community and you simply don't get this when worshipping in private. Many Christians may see this as a strong point as being part of the community is often considered a big part of having a religious faith. However, some Christians may agree that private worship is more important as when worshipping in private there are less distractions, allowing you to focus better. Many Christians may feel this is a strong point as essentially worship is about your own personal relationship with God, and sometimes it can be hard to focus on this when there are distractions around you (such as in a Church).