

The Church and Christian Worship

Worship can vary from formal liturgical services to informal free expression. It contains many different elements (not all of which will feature in every denomination). The lists below contain a lot of *formal religious language*, (especially in the list of “Elements of Worship”), which it would not be helpful to use with primary school children, although the concepts can be discussed at the appropriate level.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism
 Eucharist / Holy Communion
 Confirmation
 Ordination
 Penance / Reconciliation
 Marriage
 Anointing the sick

Making the sign of the cross
 Sprinkling water
 Sitting in silence
 Speaking in tongues
 Giving testimonies
 Kissing of icons, crucifix or Bible
 Ringing bells
 Blessing
 Exchanging greetings
 Passing the peace
 Genuflecting
 Clapping
 Lighting candles
 Hymns
 Psalms
 Worship songs
 Music
 Dancing

Renewal
 Adoration
 Thanksgiving
 Confession
 Repentance
 Intercession

FEATURES OF WORSHIP

Reciting creeds
 Bible reading
 Preaching sermons
 Telling stories
 Eating bread & drinking wine
 Prayer
 Meditation
 Giving money and gifts
 Wearing special garments
 Processions
 Standing
 Kneeling
 Sitting

THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP CAN BE DESCRIBED AS:

Proclamation
 Response
 Inspiration

QUESTIONS TO ASK OF THE WORSHIP STIMULI:

What are people doing?
 What do people look as if they are feeling?
 What do only some of the people do?
 What do all of the people do?
 How do the people acknowledge the presence of God? (activities, expressions , gestures)
 In a video – is there a pattern to the worship?
 Were there any special ritual actions?
 How did the people know what to do and when?