



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org **September 25th, 2011** "Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomechurch.org

Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!** . . . Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:29-34)

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Remember our loved ones in Kenya— Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Rejoice for Kayla Pantall & Kristan Moffitt putting on Christ in baptism
- Thankful for improvement in health of Jim Grim, Luke G., Jane-Ann's Mom
- Asking Lord's guiding favor for Lauren's step-brother and father
- Bless ministries of Each member at FH
- Bless ministries of Each of the Elders, Tommy Next Right Step, Frank, Karen, Ann V., Lance, Adam, teachers, assembly worship team, internet
- Matthew Christy to know Jesus while in Europe
- We thank you for the many freedoms of our country
- Lord may You be the Balance to our busy lives in these busy times
- Lord to go ahead of Jimmy & David in plan for trip to Kenya
- Lead our hearts to worship in Spirit & Truth

Humans as Essentially Worshipping Beings

A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming. Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The most important act on earth is worship. The chief end of humankind in human history ... is not the salvation of everybody. Salvation is not the goal. Salvation is the means to the goal. You want to get people saved so that they will worship the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Salvation is the means, worship is the goal ... We were created to worship the one true God." Ben Witherington

Humanity is profoundly more than Homo sapiens (wisdom): Humans are not always known for wisdom, but each and every human is a worshipper: *Homo religiosus*: "It is the chief aim of humankind to love God and enjoy and adore Him for ever." John Knox

Worship Wars: "The 'last battle' [in Revelation] is not between good and evil as abstractly conceived but between the worshippers of the beast and the worshippers of God. F.A. Murphy



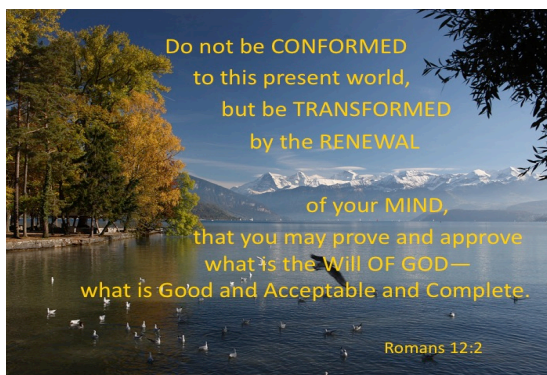
When one turns to the Lord, the Veil is Removed

2 Corinthians 3:16

Story of the Elderly Blind Worshiper

Ben Witherington tells a revealing story about one of the members of the church he served. There was an elderly woman in my home church who could barely see or hear. Yet there she was each Sunday, sitting near the front and participating in worship with vigor. At one point a young woman asked her why she was there, since she couldn't really hear much of what was being said or see much of what was happening. Her reply was memorable: "I'm not here for what I can get out of the service but for what I can give. I get the bulletin mailed to me, and I get out my magnifying glass and read it through, and then I read the Scriptures and the hymns we will sing. So when I come to the service, I'm ready to worship, and I give that to God, even though I'm getting back perhaps less than some in that particular hour." The young woman was stunned. Caught up in the consumer mentality of many, and applying it to worship, she had just assumed that one chose a worship service—or, for that matter, a church—based on what one could get out of it, not on where God might be pleased to receive our worship and service.

We come to give primarily, not primarily to get. But hear the good news, God also comes ... prepared to give. As we bow down to God, God comes to relate, empower, heal, save, give visions to His people and proclaim His truth.



Do not be CONFORMED to this present world, but be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWAL of your MIND, that you may prove and approve what is the Will OF GOD— what is Good and Acceptable and Complete.

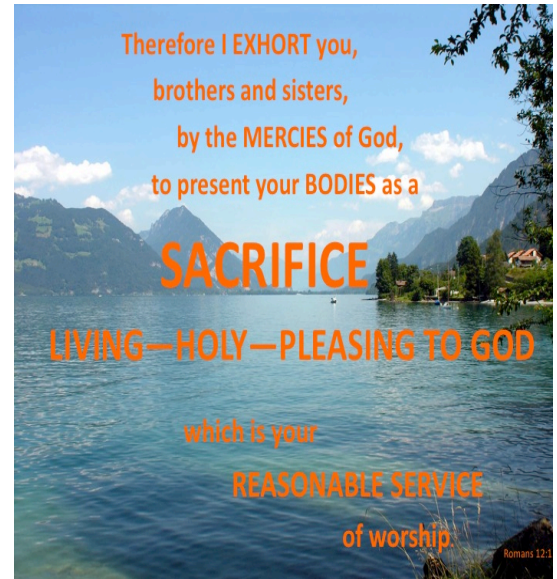
Romans 12:2

Worship is Doxology in the Key of Life

One of the major differences between Christian worship and Old Testament worship is that we are the Easter people who celebrate on the day after the Sabbath, and we are not called to see worship as Sabbath or Sunday as Sabbath. Indeed, instead of separating the sacred from the mundane, we are called upon to *make all things sacred*, to let all things be **doxological**, [which means] done to the glory of God. Ben Witherington

Modern usage applied the word "worship" to the assembly of believers gathered for corporate acts of devotion. As the passages about spiritual sacrifice . . . show, the New Testament usage of the words for worship is much broader, including the Christian moral life and acts of service on behalf of people. The common meaning of worship today represents a narrowing down of the New Testament meaning of worship. It selects one aspect of worship and applies the word exclusively (or almost so) to that aspect. Worship properly understood, however, covers the Christian life as well as the Christian assembly, all acts of service and devotion to God. This does not make the assembly less important, but serves to make Christian existence in all its expressions sacred. . . . Faith may be private or individual in the sense that someone cannot believe for another, but faith has a community expression and involves a group. If one can sustain one's faith without the support of common worship, then it is not the Christian faith that is held. Everett Ferguson

If I were a nightingale, I should be singing as a nightingale; if a swan, as a swan. But as it is, I am a rational being; therefore I must be singing hymns of praise to God. Epictetus, Stoic philosopher (b. A.D. 55) on reasonable worship



Visions of True Worship

This past year Methodist teacher and minister Ben Witherington gave a powerful talk on the subject of worship for the teachers and ministers at a Baptist seminary. He focused on what the church can learn from three writers of the Bible who were granted a vision of true worship. There are several passages of Scripture which relate the powerful visions of Isaiah (chapter 6 in the Temple), Ezekiel (chapter 1), and John (Revelation 1 & 4). For John and Ezekiel, their encounter with God and their true worship experience came not in church, but in exile. Ezekiel was in the desert of Iraq; John was on the isle of Patmos.

"For Ezekiel, unlike Isaiah, worship was not a matter of a holy place or being in the sacred zone. What Ezekiel learned on that day is the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and you can encounter God's presence, His holy, living presence anywhere at anytime."

For John, who was banished to Patmos, the encounter with God meant that John heard and he saw what God intended for him. John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" according to the text. When you go to church are you in the Spirit? Not (are you) in the church, but are you in the Spirit on the Lord's Day so that you might see? An awful lot of people do not come for the worship experience in that condition, and they do not receive what God has to give them on that occasion. See, it wasn't a matter of holy space, it wasn't a matter of being in the right place, but being in the right condition to worship and encounter God. He was in the Spirit.

John, the writer of the last book of the Bible, did not require the right music or the right place. Rather he came prepared for a holy encounter in holy time on the Lord's day. He came prepared to give honor and praise and glory to God. He was wide open to the Holy Spirit to such a degree that the Bible said, "He was in the Spirit." And then God gave him this incredible vision (that is the book of Revelation).

<u>2011 Calendar</u>	Conference of Interest: September 30 – October 1 at the Chattanooga Convention Center: "Reading Genesis 1-2: An Evangelical Conversation" from the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice	DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@the church Intercessory prayer for anyone • EACH WED - 4:45 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study • EACH LAST WED NIGHT OF THE MONTH - "Branded" for the youth (Grades 5th-12th) 6-7:30pm @ church 	Sept 25 Oct 2 Oct 9 Oct 16 Oct 23 Oct 30 Nov 6 Nov 13	Kathleen Stewart Anita Christy Ocie Garner Barbara Jenkins Lynne Daniel Mandy Austin Karen Costello D'Ann McAlister	Sept L. McAlister Oct Austin Nov VanderLinden Dec Christy Jan D'Ann Feb McAlister (Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.