



Grace Church

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins
Rector

WHAT WE DO WHEN WE GO TO CHURCH

Instructed Eucharist Part 1: The Word of God

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015

Let's say someone asks you: Why do you go to church? What do you do there? They are not being suspicious or condescending; they are curious; they really want to know.

Perhaps you are curious too. You may ask yourself, What am I doing here? You may ask yourself, How did I get here? What is this beautiful church and who are these beautiful people? (with a hat tip to David Byrne and the Talking Heads).

This morning I will take the occasion of the third Sunday of Advent—a preparatory season—and the second Sunday of the month—when I teach the middle school confirmation class—to talk about worship. For that is what we are doing here this morning.

Worship

What is worship?

“Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love-gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard it for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded (see [Exodus 16:20](#)). God will never allow you to keep a spiritual blessing completely for yourself. It must be given back to Him so that He can make it a blessing to others.” Oswald Chambers

Worship is the foundation of what we do as a church; we are fundamentally a worshipping community. That is not all we are. We are also a learning community: growing in understanding and adapting to new times and people. We are also a service community, sent out into the world to serve it in Christ's name. We are a church on a mission, the mission of God to restore, reconcile and recreate this world. But all this flows from worship.