

Returning Joy To God Through Worship

One of the consistently regular activities of our FFWPU communities in Europe has been the worship service. These events usually involve:

- music & singing
- prayer & meditation
- reading & preaching on scripture
- making offerings

Fundamentally, these are public events that allow communities of blessed families to gather together in order to praise God as an extended family of True Parents.

"The ultimate purpose of the universe, with human beings at its centre, is to return joy to God."

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part 1, Chapter 1 §3.1

Why then do you go to church? It should be because of God. You should go to church to make God your own and to find God's love and make it your own.

- True Father, 6th December 1959

Worshipping our Heavenly Parent is something that can be done on the individual and family level, but there is also a need for community celebrations that demonstrate our sincere devotion to God. In this working group we will ask this question: **How can we develop our congregational worship services so that they bring God the greatest joy possible?**

Please bring evidence of best practices in your communities. Please also bring questions or suggestions to improve the spiritual power and technical ability of our corporate worship. Our working group might discuss:

- Including genuine testimonies of faith as part of the worship
- Delivering sermons that transform lives which are relevant to pastoral realities and built on God's words
- Introducing and creating new music that expresses our faith with exciting sounds, while maintaining a balance between traditional and new music
- Professional leading of worship services; choosing appropriate venues for hosting worship, using good equipment, and creating a controlled feeling so that congregations feel safe & comfortable
- Exploring old and new ways of praying