

Call to Worship Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Let's come before him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to him!

The Lord is a great God, the great king over all other gods. The earth's depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him; the sea, which he made, is his along with the dry ground, which his own hands formed.

Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker!

He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands.

*The Word

Psalm 22:22-29

I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; I will praise you in the very center of the congregation!

All of you who revere the LORD—praise him! All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him!

All of you who are all Israel's offspring—stand in awe of him!

**Because he didn't despise or detest the suffering of the one who suffered—
he didn't hide his face from me. No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.**

I offer praise in the great congregation because of you; I will fulfill my promises in the presence of those who honor God. Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!

Let all who seek the LORD praise him! I pray your hearts live forever!

**Every part of the earth will remember and come back to the LORD;
every family among all the nations will worship you.**

Because the right to rule belongs to the LORD, he rules all nations.

Indeed, all the earth's powerful will worship him; all who are descending to the dust will kneel before him; my being also lives for him.

Living the Word

"The Ministry of Worship"

Definition - **Chuck Knows Church:**

What have we done this last year as we were 'thinking greater' in our Ministry of Worship?

First let's look through the seasons of worship:

- Last Fall: Stewardship Campaign "Thing Greater: Live, Give Love Beyond all Expectation"
- All Saint's Day celebrated with candles
- Bible Sunday
- A Thanksgiving Sunday celebrated with potluck lunch and our annual Church conference
- Christ the King Sunday
- Advent – celebrating the hymn stories of the coming of Christ
- The Christmas Pageant
- Christmas – celebrating the hymn stories of Christ's arrival
- Lent – Coming Home to God through Easter and Confirmation
- May – A month of hospitality readiness for summer
- Summer – What Makes your heart Sing?
 - Mouth Water
 - Toes tap – Fishin' for Dixie
 - Nose Twitch
 - Praises Ring – 10,000 Reasons for My Heart to Sing

Fall – Grandparent's Day From the Backside – Feel Good about being older/Dementia reality check

- Celebrating our Ministries: Outreach, Nurture & Care, Worship and Education

Changes to Worship –

- Chuck Knows Church – humor & a teaching
- Using screen since the beginning of Lent
 - adding sermon slides
 - a few movie clips
- Word changes in the bulletin: from scripture to 'The Word', Sermon to 'Living the Word'
- More than one song of thanksgiving as we offer our gifts to God: Doxology & others
- Gluten free wafers with communion

Shalom on the screen. Worship is not about the screens or the bulletin, not even about the music. They are all tools, put together to draw you further into worship with God, your Creator.

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- Some new hymns!
- You all help with the putting together of the service:
 - Responding to joys and concerns
 - White board offerings

I am grateful for:

God's Holy Spirit, guiding us to and through meaningful worship, including:

- Deeper, more open sharing in prayer –
 - for friends
 - for family
 - for church family
 - For last years elections
 - For our country
 - For the people caught in disasters around the world
 - For the world
- A Great Choir
- Time for a children's message & those who sacrifice their worship to take children to children's church
- Wonderful liturgists
- Flexible musicians and choir director
- Dedicated power point people
- An awesome Technical crew
- Efficient ushers
- Friendly greeters

Yes, hospitality extends to and out the door as we take Jesus Christ out to the community in many ways:

- Community Worship: Ecumenical Good Friday Service
- The Salad Luncheon in June, inviting the community in to our building
- The ongoing work in the Memorial Garden, including new mulch, which is used by many community members, as well as the slide and swings!
- Our help in bringing a contemporary Christian music concert to the Sawyer County Fair
- The prayer vigil for Korea
- Singing with the Lutherans at Shues Pond to Celebrate the Reformation of the Church by Martin Luther
- Oktoberfest, the church serving the community German Dinner

Thursday evening before the first meal was served we took time to pray together aloud, but with any time we leave this place or invite others in, there is large amounts of silent prayer before, during and after...

So 'Still Thinking Greater' what is to come for worship at Hayward United Church?

- Updating outdated language
 - Narthex to Gathering Place
 - Altar to Worship table

Still Thinking Greater:

- Prayer Walks? I am told there used to be 2 pastors that walked Main Street once a week praying for the businesses. Some churches gather and walk around their building praying for what may happen inside and out. It worked for Joshua...
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship
- A worship service in the Memorial Garden
- Stained Glass in the Windows
- New, more inviting use of our land/yards around the building.

What did Chuck say about Worship?

- Up and down and out
- To lift up high, to bow down and to serve – action verbs
 - Lift up God, acknowledge God's Lordship, give of ourselves because of God's love for us

Often I say at the beginning of the service: "let us turn our hearts to worship"

Maybe not a literal action word – 'turning our hearts'
but a call to focus ourselves as Christ did, on God

Where will our Ministry of Worship go from here if we continue to 'Think Greater'?

Look at all of the lay people who participate in worship each week...

Is God calling you to share your gifts and talents in this ministry?

What ideas do you have that will draw us and others closer to God? What about drama during services? Or a new special music? Or a new Hymn (10,000 Reasons)

We are always open to getting more people involved...to help point the way to God in Worship