

Thought for the week

Showing worth to God

Can you remember a time when you have felt special or wanted? Perhaps someone asked your opinion, noticed your jumper or included you in a conversation. You knew you were worth something. Even now, you might be wondering how to make someone feel special – what could you do, buy, or say to show them their worth? This is a kind of worship. Indeed, the Old English word *weorthscipe* means to show someone their worth or respect.

In Revelation 7, we see a moment in heaven when everyone joins the angels, praising God and acknowledging God's worth. That's what we do every time we meet and focus entirely on God and what God means to us and the world. We sing songs and hymns reminding us of God's love and showing God how much we care. We read the Bible and listen to each other's experiences of God. In his dream, John is asked who all the worshippers are. He's told they are the people 'who have come out of the great ordeal'. We aren't told exactly what they have been through, but we know that they had persevered. They had endured. Heaven is for them the chance to forget the hard times and enjoy being in God's presence.

Similarly, for us it's often much easier to sing, pray and show God's worth with other Christians. The challenge is to show God's worth – to offer God worth-ship – in all we do: to worship God on a cold, wet, dark morning when we want to stay in bed; or to remember we are God's children when we are sad, disappointed or in pain. This isn't a modern problem. The psalmist reminds himself to 'bless the Lord at all times'. Why? Because he called on God when he was frightened, and God helped. Jesus, looking at the crowds, draws attention to those who are showing God's worth even when the going is tough: the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek.

In the coming week, in those moments when we feel inadequate, or some of the toughness of life threatens to overwhelm us, our readings today remind us to look to the Creator, the Enabler, the Saviour who will help us overcome. When we long for God's right ways to prevail, when we cry for the pain and hatred we hear of or experience, when we shudder at signs of evil and are rejected by friends and family, what is our response? Do we despair and long for Sunday, or could our lives show a different way to be? A way to show that God is worthy of praise even when life is tough?