

The Way of Love: WORSHIP

[This sermon was preached from notes, not written out. Below is an outline with the main point of each of the sections. To watch the sermon, go to <http://www.yourconcordtv.org/on-demand-player/>, scroll down to the St. Paul's Church channel, and then fast forward to around 15 minutes to find the sermon.]

A. Intro

- a. Way of Love, WORSHIP: THANK PRAISE DWELL in COMMUNITY
- b. How = Come together, weekly,
 - i. BCP p.400, "An Order for Celebrating Holy Eucharist"

B. Praise

- a. Gather in the Lord's Name
 - i. Singing songs and hymns of praise with one another in community.
- b. Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God
 - i. This is Praise because we praise God for God's awesome actions in the past, which helps us praise God for God's action now and in the future.

C. Thank

- a. Pray for the World and the Church
 - i. Thank God for blessing, pray for those who can't give thanks, and give thanks for our forgiveness and absolution.
- b. Exchange the Peace
 - i. Embody that Thanks by sharing Peace with one another.

D. Dwell

- a. Prepare the Table
 - i. Brings our gifts to the table. Gifts which are enabled by God dwelling in us.
- b. Make Eucharist
 - i. Together, with the priest, we all pray the prayer, saying AMEN at the end. God's Spirit dwells in the bread and wine in a special way after this.
- c. Break the Bread

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- i. The high point of the service when we remember Jesus' body being broken on the cross. It's also practical because it's the first break to distribute the bread, just like Jesus did at the Last Supper.
 - d. Share the Gifts of God
 - i. Then we dwell with God and one another in the sharing of these gifts of bread and wine. THEN we go out into the world (after the blessing and dismissal) to share the gifts God has given us with our neighbors.
- E. But what if we don't feel like thanking, praising, or dwelling? Like Job. Like Psalm 22, or the the rich young ruler?
 - a. Sometimes times are hard. Or following Jesus feels like it will mean giving up something that we just don't want to give up. Or stopping worshipping something we'd rather worship--be it our intellect, our status, our country, or what have you. But when we follow Jesus on the Way of Love, practices these steps in our daily lives, we receive so much more than we could have ever asked for or imagined (not always how we might have thought it would look like but it's there). And then we can keep praising, thanking, and dwelling. And we can go and be a blessing.