

Sunday August 23rd, 2020
Experience God in Worship
John 4:19-24

There are two main ways in which we experience God: appreciation and adoration. We're all familiar with appreciation. We walk into an awe-inspiring cathedral and are carried away by its beauty and feel God with us. Or we get caught up into singing a worship song together; we appreciate it and enjoy it and through that appreciation we feel the presence of God.

When we appreciate and enjoy beautiful, fun or profound things, we encounter God. This is good, but it's not the only way we encounter God – we encounter God even more profoundly in adoration. Adoration transcends beauty and excitement. It can happen just as easily – maybe more easily – in a dark, quiet room as it can in a cathedral or loud and vibrant worship service. When we adore God, we take the centre of our focus off of the vehicle of worship (the song or liturgy or art) and to the object of worship. We come to God as we are, thank him for the good gifts he has given us and dwell on him in praise. Appreciation is great, but God is always inviting us to adoration as well. I suspect in this season – when we are unable to sing together – this is exactly the lesson he has for us.

Questions for group discussion

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. How can you respond?