

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

Handouts



**THE RENAISSANCE PROGRAM
Unitarian Universalist Association**

2003

Definitions of Worship

Worship is a shared exercise of the spirit, directed to conscious, deliberate reconsideration of and rededication to universal values as related to ourselves and the world.

Worship is the bold assertion that our lives are meaningful, and the practice of giving ourselves over to the healing powers which govern our destinies.

Worship is radical openness to all experience, a sensitizing process that exposes us to the heights and depths of living.

Worship is the only suitable preparation for the greatest creative artistry in the world, the art of reshaping the total vital process of living.

Worship is the act of elucidating, encouraging, and affirming our responses to mystery/value questions and experiences.

Worship is the compelling vision of life in its fullness.

Worship is the celebration of life in its heights and in its depths—intimate, intense and ultimate.

Worship is a deliberate shaping, ordering, or recalling of the things of worth which we experience individually at various moments in our lives.

Worship occurs when the horizontal and the vertical—the mundane and the transcendent—suddenly intersect for us.

Finding My Strengths

Creating a Worship Service Skills that may be required:	I have done this.	I do this well.	I enjoy doing this.	I would like to try doing this.	I have seen/participated in a good example of this, which I could share.	I know someone in my congregation who would be happy to do this with our children.	Other reactions.
Generating ideas or developing them.							
Finding resources.							
Telling stories using poetry or drama.							
Creating beauty, appealing to the eyes and other senses							
Making music and involving others in music.							

Worship Checklist

S, O, M, F, T

SETTING: The given or chosen location, seating arrangement, aesthetics, physical comfort, visual aids, beauty, the clothes people wear, ...

ORDER: The order of service, ritual, rhythm, pace, tone, style, ...

MUSIC and MOVEMENT: Songs, chants, hand motions, standing and sitting, holding hands, lighting candles or chalice, bringing offering forward, ...

FAITH FAMILY: Community, sharing, caring, participation, age-appropriateness, something for everyone, comforting and stretching, ...

TOPIC: Theme, talk, content; inspirational rather than educational; readings, words of songs, illustrated by objects or pictures, ...

A Good Worship Service IS –

WORSHIPFUL

CONGRUENT WITH OUR HIGHEST VALUES

WELL-CRAFTED – it follows an intentional scheme, it flows, builds, progresses

AGE-APPROPRIATE

ARTISTICALLY AND WELL CONDUCTED

ONE THAT HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE