

## USE-LESS WORSHIP

"From certain point of view, worship is use-less. It may be, of course, that people have found worship to be useful. It may have been useful in reducing stress; in developing closer ties to family members, friends, and even strangers; in introducing us to a deeper appreciation for Scripture and to the doctrines of the church; in making contacts that proved to be fruitful personally or professionally. However useful worship may have proved to be, the church does not gather to worship as a strategy to achieve some useful end.

"Worship, first and foremost, is the people's meeting with God who has taken the initiative to gather that people. It is a gathering intended for no other purpose than to offer our praise, our thanksgiving, and our lament, while trusting Spirit to bring us into the presence of the risen Christ. It is not adult education. It is not socializing. It is not therapy. It is not networking. It is not a rally to support programs or causes. For all practical purposes, it is and ought to be use-less."

The Companion to the Book of Common Worship, p. 6  
Peter C. Bower, Editor

*Q. What is the chief end of man?*

*A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*

*Westminster Shorter and Longer Catechism*

**Read** [read passage twice]

Silence 3-5 minutes\* - silently repeat a word or phrase that interests you...

Sharing aloud (if in group): Simply share the word or phrase that spoke to you. No elaboration.

**Reflect** [read once]

Silence 3-5 minutes - reflecting on "Where does this touch my life?"

Sharing aloud: "I hear, I see, I was struck by..."

**Respond** [read once]

Silence 3-5 minutes - reflecting on "How is God calling me to Respond?"

Sharing aloud: Briefly pray - spontaneously expressing your response to God's call.

**Rest** [read once]

Rest in God's grace, in silence 2-3 minutes

\*The time allotted for each period of silence can vary.