

Introduction

There are many reasons that people gather, and many places that they gather in. But the coming together of people in this place, is special. For the people who gather here, come together as people gathered in the Lord's name.

Over the past years, our society has tended to put much emphasis on the individual person. This has been helpful in coming to understand the uniqueness and giftedness of each person. It has also been helpful in reminding us of the need that we each have of a personal faith relationship with our Lord. But at the same time, it can be harmful if it breaks down the relationships that we must have with each other, with the Church.

Liturgy, which is what we are gathered here for, is a common expression of faith. It is based on a Greek word which can best be defined as a "public work done for the service of others". Liturgy, or public worship, is not meant as our one time a week with God. It is not meant to be a time of private prayer, although prayerfulness is essential to common worship. It is meant to be a time when we come together, as *one* people, to publically proclaim the Word, proclaim our faith, and share in the Body of Christ.

We are here as a ministry. Each of us, not simply the celebrant and the people sitting in the sanctuary, but all of us are here by our presence and by our participation for the purpose of ministering to one another. We need to support, and be supported by each other. The Scriptures tell us that "where two or three are gathered, there am I in their midsts."

This worship aid, **Glory & Praise**, has been created to help your community give fitting, beautiful, and public praise to our God. It is our hope, that it will be one assistance to you in offering the gift of yourself to our God and to each other. But, the faith of this community needs to bring these words and these notes to life.

It is our hope and our prayer, that your community may truly be on fire with the love of God, and that you may offer *Glory and Praise to our God*.