

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP

By Rev. Will Nelken

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Romans 12:1-3

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

How many have come with a need this morning? Something in your spiritual life that is not fully in tune, harmony, obedience to God? Something in your thought life that leaves you troubled, confused, frustrated, ashamed, or angry? Something in your physical life that is not working properly, gives you pain, worries you, makes you afraid?

And why would we bring these matters to church? (Because God is compassionate and powerful.)

But if you will only seek God when you are lacking something, needing something... How are we different from those whom Jesus scolded when they sought Him because He gave them food to eat?

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. (John 6:26)

What if there's a better reason to come to church, than to receive (anything)? Please take note: These are not alternates (receive *or* give), they are complements (give *and* receive). It's a matter of priority—which comes first, matters most?

Remember the faith of the psalmist: *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing that I need"* (Psalm 23:1). Or, as one young woman paraphrased it: *The Lord is my Shepherd, that's all I want!*

Presenting your body, dedicating yourself to God, is your "spiritual (reasonable, logical, appropriate) service (act of serving another) of worship (to God)." It is not "serve-us" but service!