

WEMTC Worship: A Vision

I have a dream... that all the WEMTC community will worship together out of a desire for God which is deeper than labels and traditions...

...that a spirit of trust will enable us to receive from one another's traditions and heal misconceptions, judgements and hurts...

...that new experiences will be opportunities to learn, grow and be transformed...

...that any ideas we may have about worship needing to be done in the 'right' way, whatever that may be, will melt away as together we experience the presence of God...

...that out of a desire to minister to a wide range of people in our churches we will be ready to value many forms of worship and be prepared to learn to lead others in and through them to encounter with God...

I have a dream.



Worship at Easter School

We want to ensure that corporate worship is at the heart of our community life this week.

Worship together in the context of a course like WEMTC has several facets:

Reminding ourselves that God is the source and goal of all life and ministry, so that our lives will be founded on that truth
Forming and maintaining deeper bonds of fellowship
Offering to God afresh our lives, selves, fears, joys, and seeking the Spirit's transforming and empowering presence
Widening and extending our experience of different traditions of worship

When we are tired and challenged, we all revert to what we are familiar with and feel we can handle. Worship is no exception. We are all different, and find that different kinds of worship enable us to meet with God at different times. That's fine, and we respect one another in those differences.

We aim to have a balance of different styles and contexts for worship. The pattern is as follows:

Daily Pattern

We all worship together each **morning at 7.45** either for a Service of the Word or a Eucharist. This may be formal or informal (depending on how you define those terms).

Before Morning Worship, there is an optional twenty minute meditation in the contemplative tradition, led by our chaplains.

Worship at Easter School

We worship in our **Home Groups at 5.30 each evening**, in the context of unpacking the day and sharing any issues which have arisen. Here, worship and prayer flow out of and back into our relationships and the day's learning. This is another important model of worship and of making worship an integral part of discussion and fellowship. The structure of Evening Prayer is left very light so that the group together can develop ways of using it. Everyone needs to be responsible for making sure that the worship element of these sessions is honoured.

In the **late evening**, there is a choice of worship to end the day. WEMTC Praise is in the chapel. It is open-ended, informal, and fluid in its format and duration. People are encouraged to come and go as they feel comfortable. There is no pre-defined end time, and the ethos is very much on waiting on the Holy Spirit and ministering to one another as the Spirit leads. If you are unfamiliar with this kind of worship, this is an opportunity to experience something new in a safe space.

Night Prayer is in the Oak chapel every evening. You may want to use the week as a chance to experiment with the rhythm of a daily office and go each evening. Night Prayer has a set form and ending, but people are free to stay and pray either individually or together, and to use the space to continue to worship.

If you find you are just too tired or need space, you may want to miss late evening worship on occasion.

