

Enhancing Traditional Worship at our Early Service

Dear Ones,

I appreciate the participation of 30 of our 8:00 service attenders in the worship survey of mid-May. This is a strong representative sampling, that will help me and the musicians plan good worship going forward, with your kind help and feed-back, and good mutual listening and learning.

I very much love Rite I. I think it is important to continue to offer it as the primary mode of worship at the early service. I encourage you to memorize some of its key shorter elements, and to pay attention to the rubrics, the directions and rationale, in the Prayer Book.

I also want to recognize the opportunity to grow our appreciation both of Rite I, and other kinds of traditional Anglican worship. The survey respondents point in this direction as a way we can try a few things on, and grow our repertoire and keep it fresh, and mindful of its meaning, which can lead to greater appreciation of the meaning of the usual forms as well. The question from the survey about variation in worship is one indication of this. 24% of respondents picked fewer than the moderate “five stars,” 45% were in the moderate middle, and 31% were on the ‘more variation’ side of the spectrum, and 38% were above the middle on innovation and trying new things, and 59% endorsed some modification of Rite I, using some of the rest of the Book of Common Prayer, or exploring newer rites of prayer congruent with our liturgical tradition. Accordingly, I would like to do strictly Rite I out of the Book of Common Prayer, using the rubrical preferred options, *about half the time*.

What this means is, consistent with interests expressed in the survey, some seasons of prayers of the people, or a post-communion prayer or affirmation of faith that is not from Rite I, included in a thus modified Rite I service *about one third of the time*. A few times of the year, two or three, we will try something else for a brief, announced time-period, then evaluate and discuss it with one another afterwards.

As in the summer we have early service participants from other services in the fall-spring service schedule, it feels appropriate to try something I have found most Rite I folk discover they like, for three weeks in July, when the other services will also try this, the eucharistic service of the most influential newer Book of Common Prayer in world Anglicanism, The New Zealand Prayer Book. After this three-week period, July 7, 14, & 21, we will revert to a purely Rite I service for several months.

I look forward as always to worshipping with you, and growing in love together.

Love,



James