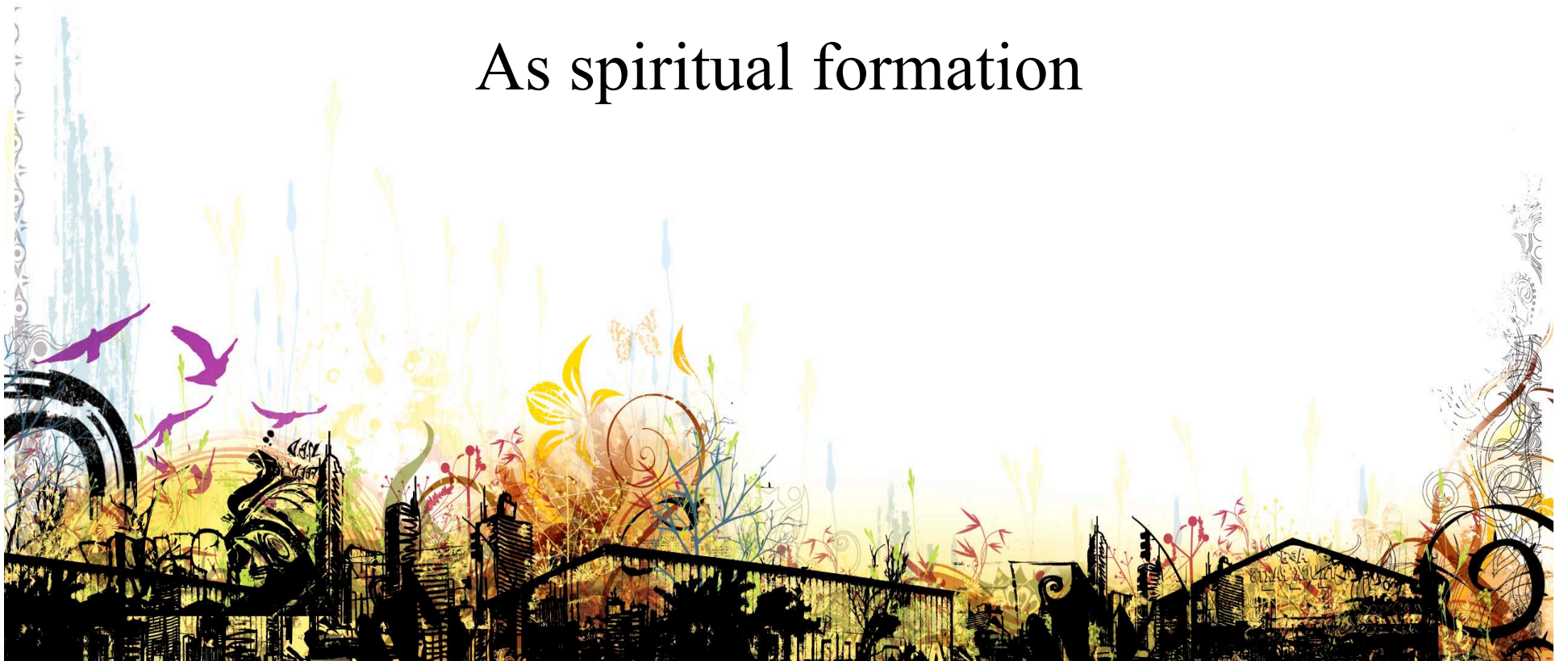


hallelujah

what's right with the world

Public Worship

As spiritual formation





Spiritual Formation and
gathered worship.

Spiritual formation:

***The development, through
practice, of people who
“be,” think, feel, work,
relate, and play
... in the way of Jesus.***

Spiritual formation:

*The development of
disciples.*

make [spiritually form] disciples
...**teach them to do**
all I have commanded you.

(Matthew 28)

I have given you an example
... love one another as I have loved
you.

(John 13-15)

to be conformed
to the image of God's Son

(Romans 8)

**... be transformed
by the renewing of your
minds.**

(Romans 8)

**... I will show you the most
excellent way ...**

follow the way of love

(1 Corinthians 12-14)

...until Christ
is formed in you.

(Galatians 4:19)

**Spiritual formation involves
intentional spiritual practices
(or disciplines) so people can
learn a way:**

***Actions within our power which we do
to train ourselves to do things
currently beyond our power, and to
become people we are currently
incapable of being.***

-Running a marathon

-Playing the guitar

-Learning Chinese

***Actions within our power which we do
to train ourselves to do things
currently beyond our power, and to
become people we are currently
incapable of being.***

**-And if you're part of a
local congregation, you're
already doing many of
them!**

**Spiritual formation
through gathered
worship ...**

**gathered worship as
spiritual formation**

Gathered (or Public) Worship

**Liturgy: A planned succession
of group practices and rituals.**

*Liturgy is the work of the people which the
professionals plan and lead. Programming is
the work of the professionals which the people
observe.*

Rituals:

Practices done *to bond to the meaning* they represent.

Ritualism:

**Performing the prescribed
action without connection to
the intended meaning:
religion on autopilot.**

**How can we maximize
gathered worship for
spiritual formation as
disciples?**

*(How can we avoid spiritual
malformation through ritualism or
autopilot religion?)*

1. Inconvenience:

**Going to a place I didn't
choose**

At a time I didn't choose

For a purpose I do choose.

(Hebrews 10:24-25)

2. Association

**Associating with some people
I like**

And others I don't like

For a purpose I believe in.

(Romans 15:7)

3. Speed

**Altering my pace to see what
I've missed and to feel a
different rhythm.**

Speeding up ... slowing down

(Hebrews 3:15)

4. Hospitality

Using my presence and our space to help “the other” feel welcome in my presence, and in the presence of our community.

(1 Corinthians 11:33)

5. Public Prayer, Creed, Confession, and Song

**Allowing our hopes, dreams, concerns, beliefs,
and desires to be formed and aligned with God's
will ... together.**

Desire for justice, mercy, peace

Desire for honesty, humility, gratitude, truth

Desire for God's kingdom, honor, power, glory

Desire for good desire formation!

(Romans 15:5-6)

5. Public Prayer, Creed, Confession, and Song

Learning ways of being ...

Without guilt ... confession and absolution

**Without hypocrisy ... not lying, “both sides
now”**

**With gratitude ... acquiring verses
“having” by enjoying**

**With awe and humility ... How (not) to
speak of God**

6. Attentiveness

**Waiting for what I may receive
only by waiting receptively.**

(1 Peter 2:2)

7. Generosity

**Taking greater pleasure in being
productive (fruitful) than
consumptive.**

(2 Corinthians 8:7)

8. Modeling

**Exposing apprentices to
masters**

**In prayer, teaching, artistry,
faithfulness, service,
hospitality, etc.**

**Contemplative and charismatic
models ...**

(1 Thessalonians 1:6)

9. Concern for the whole church, the world, the poor, the enemy, “the other”

**Quoting, affirming, praying for, and
inviting others**

Blaspheming the idols of civil religion

Giving voice to the poor

Ritual of the newspaper

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

10. Mystery

“Flat” actions versus layered actions...

Layers of meaning in the eucharist

Rituals of beginning and continuing

(1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23 ff)

- **The cup of thanksgiving**
- **Participation in the body and blood of Christ**



- **One loaf, one body**
- **My body ... for you**
- **Forgiveness of sins**

- **Remember me
covenant in my blood ...**

- **Remember the Lord's death until he comes**
- **Until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God**

(1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23 ff)

**The body of Christ, broken for
you...**



**The blood of Christ given for
you...**

11. Benediction

**Christ has no body here but
ours.**

**No hands, no feet here on
earth but ours.**

**Ours are the eyes through
which he looks**

On this world with kindness.

**Ours are the hands through
which he works.**

**Ours are the feet on which he
moves.**

**Ours are the voices through
which he speaks**

To this world with kindness.

**Through our smile, our touch,
our listening ear,**

Embodied in us,

Jesus is living here.

So let us go now

Filled with the Spirit

Into this world

With kindness.

**Through our smile, our touch,
our listening ear,**

Embodied in us,

Jesus is living here.

So let us go now

Filled with the Spirit

Into this world

With kindness.



