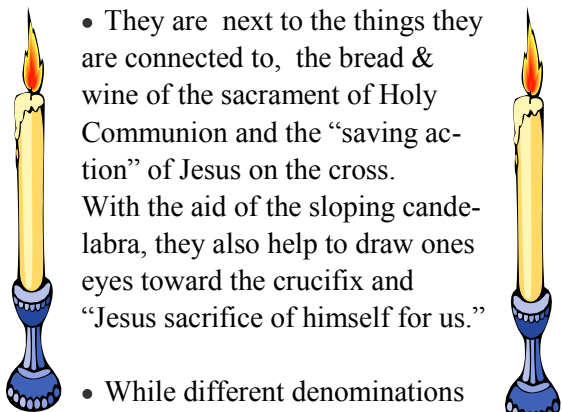


4. **Sacramental candles.** They are the 2 single candles on the altar next to the crucifix. They are lit after the bell rings and before the start of service on Baptism and Holy Communion Sundays.



- They are next to the things they are connected to, the bread & wine of the sacrament of Holy Communion and the “saving action” of Jesus on the cross. With the aid of the sloping candelabra, they also help to draw ones eyes toward the crucifix and “Jesus sacrifice of himself for us.”
- While different denominations have different definitions for what a sacrament is, our church describes sacraments as having 3 things: earthly elements, a command by God, and where the people receive the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life with God. This means we have 2 sacraments, Baptisms and The Lord’s Supper celebration.
- The sacramental candles should only be lit when we have a Baptism or the Lord’s Supper. For such events these candles should be lit for the whole service. They are snuffed out during the last song of the worship service so the people know that the formal part of worship is ending. The other candles will remain lit to assure the worshippers that God is still with us even when formal worship finishes.

5. **When the band is playing** for a worship service they sometimes have a last minute practice and tune up before the bell rings, and after the bell rings they will usually play & sing their service introduction song.



6. **At worship start time** a Spiritual Ministry Team Member will normally welcome worshippers, including any guests we may have for that day.



- The people are invited to say parts of the liturgy in the service. Those parts are highlighted in the liturgy in various obvious ways. All the liturgy and the songs are put on a screen via a Power Point™ format.
- A Spiritual Ministry team person then invites the pastor to lead the people in worship.
- We hope this information will assist you in understanding some of the context of our worship services.

**St James Christian Community**  
Part of the Lutheran Church organization of Australia.

## Worship, Getting Started

**Holy God  
and people  
meeting together!**

***Christ Centred,  
Spirit Felt.***

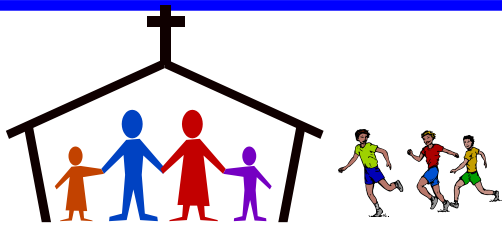


Keeping you informed:

What happens before Worship,  
the lead up to the start of worship ?

Find us on the web: [www.stjameswhyalla.org.au](http://www.stjameswhyalla.org.au)

## Our Present Per-Worship Practices



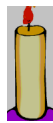
1. **The “God with us” candle** is lit at least 20 to 30 minutes before the start of worship. This candle is located at the front of the church, but not on the altar.



• In technical language this is “The Pascal candle”. “Pascal” goes back to God’s command to commemorate the exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan (Exodus 11, 12). In that event God was personally with them, and a lamb was sacrificed at the first Passover, often called the Pascal Lamb.



• At the second (or Christian) Passover event, Jesus is our Pascal Lamb of God, and God “passes over” us because of Jesus’ death on the cross.

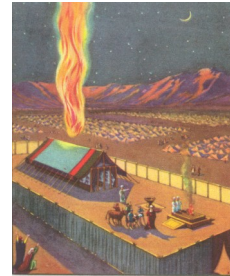


• Some times this candle is decorated with various symbols from Good Friday.

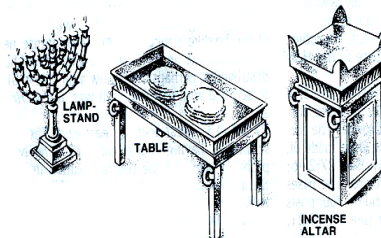
• So when you enter the worship area before service and find the “God with us” candle lit, be assured that God is there in the worship area waiting to positively interact with you in worship.

2. **The electric candelabra** on the altar are lit about 10 min before the start of worship as a sign that worship is getting closer to its formal start. In our case they are made up of two groups of 5 candles in each group.

• The origins of these candles (which used to be oil lamps) goes right back to the instructions given by God to Moses in the tabernacle—the tent temple .

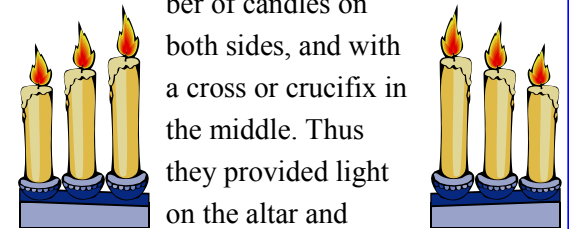


• In the holy section of the Tabernacle there was a free standing, seven lamp, lamp stand that gave light to that section of the temple. With it was the bread table and the incense altar. There was no altar in that area of the temple like we have today. That was in the Holy of Holy section.



• In early Christian worship centres the same sort of lamp (later - candles; even later- electric candles) were used to provide light for the altar area. The stand was shortened to sit on the altar, especially in the smaller worship rooms.

• The Lampstand was split into two section by the Christians, usually with an uneven number of candles on both sides, and with a cross or crucifix in the middle. Thus they provided light on the altar and highlighted the crucifix with Jesus on it.



3. **The Bell** is rung 5 minutes before the start time of worship to signal that worship is getting even closer to the start time. The normal role of the bell is to call people to the place of worship.



It was usually placed in a high tower so that the whole town could hear it, and it was rung about 1/2 hour before worship time so that people could get ready, walk to church and be there on time from the furthest home