

Grace Killian: Good morning.

Congregation: Good morning.

Grace Killian: Our responsive reading this morning is Psalm 29. Will you please stand.

Grace Killian: Ascribe to the Lord Oh heavenly being ascribed to the Lord, glory and strength.

Congregation: Ascribe to the Lord for the Lord is glory of his name; Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Grace Killian: The voice of the Lord is over the waters, the God of glory thunders, the Lord over mighty waters.

Congregation: The voice of the Lord is powerful. The voice is full of majesty.

Grace Killian: The voice of the Lord breaks the Cedars. The Lord breaks the Cedars of Lebanon.

Congregation: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Grace Killian: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

Congregation: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness. The Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Grace Killian: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare and in his temple all say glory.

Congregation: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood. The Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.

Grace Killian: May the Lord give strength to his people. May the Lord bless his people with peace.

Choir: (singing)

KMarie Tejada: Good morning.

Congregation: Good morning.

KMarie Tejada: God is the spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. This from John 4:24. Before calling myself a minister, I call myself a worshiper. For me, this means that I have given to God everything I am, my heart, my mind, my desires, and my attitudes. Everything I do, I do my best to do it for the glory of God and I try to make choices in life according to what God says in his word, whether if I like it or not. Because of this, most of the time I have to deny myself and do not follow my emotions to do what is good in God's

sight. It is letting go of the self or ego and allow that to have total control of my life and desires. You start allowing God to change me and decide what is best for me.

KMarie Tejeda: It is a terrifying and vulnerable place to be, but through time I have learned that God, as the loving father he is, always to what is best for us. Even when things don't go my way or don't make sense to me, or when I do not know what I am going, I have learned to trust him and I live to worship him. I want to clarify that this does not mean that I have always made good choices. There have been times in my life would I have done things that I am not proud of and that had that and I have done these things that have not been pleasing to God, but that I think is what makes me human and dependable of him. That is what keeps me grounded and makes me recognize that I need God to keep going and to live a life that honors him.

KMarie Tejeda: See, the church I am coming from is rooted in Pentecostalism. In a Hispanic Pentecostal church to be a worshiper, you have to seek God with passion and devotion. This means that besides the regular church services, we do services and vigils only to seek God's presence. We fast and make retreats where the focus is only to seek the Holy Spirit. We lay on the floor surrendering all of our being to God. We continuously pray for God to manifest himself through the Holy spirit. It is a very strict environment and there was a time when I had mixed feelings about it. I went through a season when I was mad at God and I couldn't find contentment in my calling to ministry because I wanted to have control of my life. Nonetheless, I've learned that there are things that I cannot control and I've had to give those things to God.

KMarie Tejeda: What has kept me on the path has been remembering all the unexplainable and supernatural experiences I've had with God since I was a child. Remembering everything that God has done in my life has been my anchor and has given me the strength to keep moving forward and to pursue God's calling. So for me, worship is a deep, profound, and constant relationship with God. It has its ups and downs, but in the end, if we keep moving forward, trusting that God has the best for us, everything will come into place in God's perfect timing. In general, some people think that a worshiper is the person who uses his or her talents to praise him, to praise, honor and serve God. In my tradition, worshipers are the people who prepare the atmospheres, the atmosphere to open the gates of Heaven. With the use of our talents, worshipers help the congregation to focus and connect with the spiritual realm, allowing the Holy Spirit to be manifest in a very personal and supernatural way.

KMarie Tejeda: So even though I agreed with those understandings of worship, I also believe that worship goes far beyond that and does not pertain only to a particular group of talented people. For me, everybody is and/or can be a worshiper. It is a matter of choice, allowing God to take control of the things we cannot control in our life, in our lives, and to live a life that honors him. It is to let go and let God. I think that everywhere we go, we can be a temple and that everything we do can

be done to the glory of God, whether it is mopping, singing, doing business, you name it. So in this Advent season at time where symbolically we prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Christ on this earth, I invite us to search your heart and to become true worshipers. I invite us to worship God in spirit and truth. No matter where we go or what we do, let's do it for his glory that our lives follow the early Christian formula Credendi-Orandi-Vivendi which is when the believing, praying, and leaving manifest in our lives, is not only for the season, but for the rest of our existence.

Grace Killian: Now let us pray the Lord's prayer as it's written in the back of your order of worship.

Grace Killian: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Grace Killian: Now will you please stand and sing our hymn for this morning? Hymn 102 in your crimson hymnal.

Congregation: (singing).

Grace Killian: Now let us go in peace, worshiping God in all things. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.