



Christ has died

THE NEW SHOFAR

When I survey the wonderous cross

Christ died for us that we may live for others

Teach me O God to seek you, reveal yourself to me – St Ambrose (339-397)

Ambrose ruled as Bishop at a time of great turmoil both inside and outside of the Church. He became Bishop when the world and its Christian communities needed a way to find peace in their lives. He was chosen to be the Bishop of Milan while he was still a catechumen – someone preparing for baptism but not yet baptised. This was legally impossible but the sense of the Spirit being at work was so strong the electors went ahead anyway. He was baptised on November 30th 374. Eight days later, December 7th he was consecrated Bishop.

There is no separation between worship and life – Jewish theology

One of the core messages of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is: *all that happens in our daily lives needs to be shaped as acts of worship offered to God.* When we engage in formal liturgical worship we then include each of these moments of the sacrificial offerings of daily life and work. As believers, we exist for the worship and service of God and God alone.

It is at this point we can understand Christianity as being counter-cultural. Worship has God as its subject. Always God. Never the self. Worship is always the result of a divine call to *be* someone in the world – an invitation to be *as Christ*; to make Christ known. This we do when we ensure all we *are* and all we *do* is an acceptable offering in the sight of God.

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

And why is this important?

It is important for Christians today because it moves the focus of our discipleship from the self to the Almighty, the

Other

in

our

lives.

A major challenge for Christians is the “**how**” of this. How do we ensure our every word and deed is something we believe God will consider “**acceptable**”? What would make a word or deed “**unacceptable**” to God? How do we re-establish our relationship with God after an **unacceptable** offering?

Produced by Bishop Michael Hough for the Disciples of Christ -

anathoth.hough@gmail.com - www.houghongod.com