worshiping in the 21st century

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What does worship have to do with anything?

a young church planter once told me ...

it feels like worship is the product we sell.
What does worship have to do with anything?

1. Worth-ship - Values Formation
2. Formation of Personal Desire
3. God-image Formation - the source, essence of our values
4. Social space formation
5. Formation for mission (action)
1. Worth-ship -
Values Formation

What do we value?
Baptizing cultural values?
Challenging social values?
Regressive, Reflective or Progressive values?

Worship as protest (protestifying)
“Jesus is Lord!”
2. The formation of personal desires

- Prayer - organized desire
- Confession - realigned desire
- Celebration - reaffirmed desire
- Ritual - bonding to meaning & desire
3. God-image Formation
- the source, essence of our values & desires

Worship as theology
Which God?

God before us or behind us?
4. Formation of social space

New norms
New skills
Alternative education
Joy among the oppressed/
Lament among the oppressors
The holy kiss ...
“communities of the future”
5. Formation for mission/action

“Organizing religion”

Weekly equipping & deployment
1. Values Formation
2. Personal Desire Formation
3. God-image Formation
4. Social Space Formation
5. Formation for mission (action)

... One more

How can we write songs that will help people enter new spiritual states and grow strong in new stages?
Worship shapes consciousness in communities and individuals. Through “states” and “stages”
State: A temporary shift in consciousness

My first intense spiritual experience ...

A state of joy, belovedness, awe, humility, gratitude

What “states” have you experienced in worship?
With practice, temporary states can become normative stages. ... a normal way of being (for a time)
Hillary - ANTI-AMBER

Green: perspectival/global
1/2 Orange: objective/rational

VS.

1/2 Orange: objective/rational
Amber: ethnocentric/tribal
Red: egocentric/personal

Trump - ANTI-GREEN
With practice, temporary states can become normative stages ... rendering us susceptible to new states, etc.

The emergence of a new state/stage - turquoise: nondual, integral, transcend and include, both/and, growth-oriented
Turquoise: integral/nondual
Green: perspectival/global
Orange: objective/rational
Amber: ethnocentric/tribal
Red: egocentric/personal
Turquoise: Jesus
Green: Prophets/Jonah
Orange: Moses/Proverbs
Amber: Abraham, Joseph
Red: Cain/Jacob
Turquoise: Mystics, Sages, Saints
Green: Social activists
Orange: Traditionalists/Osteen
Amber: Religious Right (F2, G2)
Red: narcissists of any type
Turquoise God of Transcend/Include
Green God of Justice/Liberation
Orange God of Universal Principles
Amber God of Tribal Security
Red God of Personal Survival
Keep us all close
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Oh how he loves us/Christian soldiers
Jesus loves me
Sometimes, worship malfunctions:

1. Values De-Formation
2. Personal Desire De-Formation
3. God-image De-Formation
4. Social Space De-Formation
5. De-Formation for mission (action)
6. Entrapment in harmful states and stages of consciousness
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

- Ms. Cecil Alexander (1848)
Each little flower that opens,/ Each little bird that sings,/ He made their glowing colors./ He made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountains,/ The river running by,/ The sunset and the morning/ That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,/ The pleasant summer sun,/ The ripe fruits in the garden,/ He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,/ The meadows where we play,/ The rushes by the water,/ To gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,/ And lips that we might tell/ How great is God Almighty,/ Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,/ All creatures great and small,/ All things wise and wonderful:/ The Lord God made them all.
The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
He made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

\begin{quote}
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.
\end{quote}
France, 1847

Placide Clappeau, a French wine merchant, mayor of the French town Roquemaure, writes a poem.

Adolphe Adam sets it to music.

Later the song is translated into English by John S. Dwight –

It is said to have been the first music ever broadcast over radio.
O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
Truly He taught us to love one another; 
His law is love and His Gospel is peace. 
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother 
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, 
Let all within us praise His holy Name! 
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! 
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim! 
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see his banners go!

-Sabine Baring-Gould
1. Onward, all disciples, in the path of peace,
Just as Jesus taught us, love your enemies
Walk on in the Spirit, seek God’s kingdom first,
Let God’s peace and justice be your hunger and your thirst!

Onward, all disciples, in humility
Walk with God, do justice, love wholeheartedly

2. We now face our failures in remorse and tears.
We must now build plowshares from our swords and spears,
Turn from the broad highway of prejudice and war
To follow Jesus to a place we’ve never been before

Onward, all disciples, in humility
Walk with God, do justice, love wholeheartedly
3. Onward then, all people, reach out open hands, 
Walk together now, so each child understands 
That the greatest power here or up above 
Is the strength of service and the gentle might of love. 
   Onward, all disciples, in humility 
   Walk with God, do justice, love wholeheartedly
How can we write songs that will help people enter new spiritual states and grow strong in new stages?

1. Values Formation
2. Personal Desire Formation
3. God-image Formation
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5. Formation for mission (action)
6. Emergence into new states and stages of consciousness
making contact
G9                 C9          G9               C9
the i am who i am, the i am who you are
C9                      D9
making contact, making contact,
G9
here and now.

G9
the story who i am, the story who you are
G9
making meaning, making meaning
here and now
my heart, a clenched fist, slowly opens

reaches out for contact now with you ...
artist who i am, artist who you are
making beauty, making beauty
here and now

beloved who i am, beloved who you are
making promise, making promise
here and now

my heart, a clenched fist, slowly opens,
reaches out for contact now with you.
mystery who i am, mystery who you are making music, making music here and now

the i am who i am, the i am who you are making contact, making contact, here and now.

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losing faith, finding faith
E
I’m losing faith in the god of borders.
C#m7
I’m finding faith in the God of bridges.
E
I’m losing faith in the god of walls.
C#m7
I’m finding faith in the God of windows.
A B G#7 C#m B A9 B
I believe, I believe, oh yeah.
I’m losing faith in the god of war.  
I’m finding faith in the God of peace.  
I’m losing faith in the god of fear.  
I’m finding faith in the God of freedom.  
I believe, I believe, oh yeah.

I’m losing faith in the god of earning.  
I’m finding faith in the God of learning.  
I’m losing faith in the god of division.  
I’m finding faith in the God of vision.  
I believe, I believe, oh yeah.
I’m losing faith in the god of the righteous.
I’m finding faith in the God of the sinners.
I’m losing faith in the god of experts.
I’m finding faith in the God of beginners.
I believe, I believe, oh yeah.

I’m losing faith in the god of plunder.
I’m finding faith in the God of wonder.
I’m losing faith in the god of “me.”
I’m finding faith in the God of “we.”
I believe, I believe, oh yeah.
I’m losing faith in upraised fists.
I’m finding faith in open hands.
I’m losing faith in the love of power,
I’m finding faith in the power of love.
I believe, I believe, oh yeah
I believe, I believe, oh yeah
I believe, I believe, oh yeah

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Songs are just the beginning ...

1. Values Formation
2. Personal Desire Formation
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6. Emergence into new states and stages of consciousness

Liturgies, prayers, litanies, poetry, art, architecture, interior design ... all can contribute to the formation we need!