

Which god do we worship here at St. John?

There are several ways to answer that question. The one we will use is this; we worship the god that raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. This answer links the identity of the god we worship at St. John to Jesus of Nazareth. From here we will look to Jesus of Nazareth to help us flesh out a more precise identification of the god we worship.

Who did Jesus pray to?

Since our identification of the god we worship is tied up with Jesus of Nazareth it seems fitting to take our cues from Jesus. Our claim is that we worship and pray to the same god Jesus of Nazareth worshipped and prayed to because it is finally this god who raised Jesus from the dead three days after his crucifixion as the Apostle Peter identifies in Acts 2.32-33, "This Jesus God raised up..." Seeing as how Peter and his hearers were Hebrews, as was Jesus, we then move to identifying that the god who raised Jesus of Nazareth is the god the Hebrews knew and understood as their god. This identifier is helped along by Peter in his preaching when he connects the great Hebrew king David to Jesus of Nazareth. Peter claims that it was David who first spoke of the resurrection of Jesus centuries before the actual historical event (Acts 2). What this means is that the god who raised Jesus from the dead promised it would happen through David, the king of the Hebrews. So now we can say; the god who raised Jesus from the dead and to whom Jesus prayed is the god of David and the Hebrews.

The Hebrew people worshipped (and still to this day worship) the god whose temple once stood in Jerusalem. If we trace the history of the Hebrew people and their temple we quickly find that the god they worship and pray to is the god who spoke with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Given this account our answer to the original question becomes even more precise and refined; we worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and the Hebrews who raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. If we wanted to make that answer a bit more handy we might say, we worship the god of the people of Israel who raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. Here we see that our answer to the question is aligning with the answer given by Peter in Acts 2.32-33. However, our answer develops even more when we realize that this god was around before Abraham.

The god who spoke with Abraham in Genesis 12.1-9 is the god who, prior to talking with Abraham, saw fit to destroy the tower in Babel and flood the world in the days of Noah. If we follow the story we find that this is the same god connected to Adam, Cain, Abel, Seth, and Eve. Since Adam, Eve did not exist prior to this god bringing them into existence; we claim to worship the god who created Adam and Eve out of nothing. Prior to creating Adam and Eve this same god created this earth and the cosmos and all things. Given this account of things our answer to the question, "Which god do we worship?" has become very precise. We worship *the God* who created everything out of nothing, who spoke with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David (and the Hebrews). This is the god who Jesus worshipped by prayer and who finally raised this same Jesus of Nazareth from the dead three days after his crucifixion just as the testimony of Peter and the other Apostles also claim. At this point we have given a brief answer to the question, "which god do we worship here at St. John?" From here we will try to answer the question of what God is up to? What does God want?