

**“STANDING IN AWE”**  
**JULY 2009**

A few Sundays ago, I had the opportunity to worship at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. This church is located just north of Tarpon Springs, the home of many Greek- Americans. I have attended many different kinds of worship services: Baptist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, and others. This was my first time worshipping at a Greek Orthodox congregation.

The service was in both Greek and English. I followed along in a red liturgy book: one page in Greek and the next one in English. It lasted two hours and they used the Nicene Creed as their confession of faith. This is the same creed that we often use here at Lake Seminole Church. After the creed, the priest said, “Let us stand aright; let us stand with awe.” At first, these words surprised me. We don’t usually associate “awe” with a confession of our Christian Faith.

The longer I thought about this unique worship service, however, the more I felt that it was appropriate to connect “awe” with our faith in God. The Bible clearly says, “Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of God” (Psalm 33:8). If I can be “in awe” of a snow-covered mountain or leaping dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico, why shouldn’t I be “in awe” of Almighty God? A sense of “awe” opens us up to the wonder and majesty that is all around us. Such an outlook gives us a healthy sense of perspective. The Bible describes the living God as the Creator and thus worthy of our praise. When we confess our faith in God, it’s good to “stand with awe.”

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