EMBODY WHATEVER YOU ARE DOING IN WORSHIP!!!!

You are Christ's representative to the people and the people's representative before Christ. Know which you are doing at which times in the service and act appropriately.

If you're rejoicing and praising God, do whatever comes naturally to you within (or close to) whatever's appropriate in your congregation. You can push the envelope a bit here, but too much will be so disruptive that the ritual won't be able to function for all the dissonance inside the worshipers.

If this is the feast of God's New Age begun and available to us in Christ, shouldn't that be a happy thing? A defiant, "take THAT, injustice, evil, and whatever else asserts itself against God's agenda for the world!" kinda thing?

If this is a praise song, shouldn't your face light up with delight?

If you're confessing sin, should you casually lean against the baptismal font? If you're really sorry, how do you embody this?

If you're imposing ashes on Ash Wednesday, shouldn't your action be one of tender care in the face of death's realities?

Keep it real! NO ACTING ALLOWED—just embodiment of ritual meanings a little bit "bigger" than what's normal for you so that it comes across for a room full of people as real. This means you need to know the intended ritual meanings of each part of worship.

Teresa Lockhart Stricklen