Questions for Theological Reflection

A. Recall an experience of worship, bible study, a conversation, a hymn, or an event. Think about the following questions.

God
How was God portrayed? e.g. transcendent - high and lifted up? immanent - close - up, personal?
In this experience, how is God understood to be relating to the world?
What characteristics might be attributed to God based on this experience?

Jesus
How was Jesus portrayed e.g. gentle, meek and mild? courageous and prophetic? divine? human? Lord? Historic figure? living presence?

Church
What concepts of church were upheld? - e.g. community of believers? place of sanctuary? justiceseeking people?

Humanity
How was humanity described? e.g. born in/into sin? co-creators? pinnacle of God's creation? an integral part of creation?

Suffering
How was suffering portrayed? e.g. an inevitable part of life? punishment? a sign of a special relationship with God? it just happens?
How do these portrayals relate to your own understanding? to Church tradition? to contemporary expressions of faith as found in church statements/documents/actions?

B. Other possible themes for theological reflection...
... in specific contexts or for general reflection/discussion

Prayer
What is the purpose of prayer? How/when/where/does prayer happen?
What is the connection between your understanding of prayer and your image of God?

Hope
How do you understand hope theologically? What is the difference between hope and optimism?
How can/does hope find expression in the context of struggle and suffering?

Sin
How do you understand sin - individually? corporately? in social/political/economic systems?
How do power and vulnerability (individually and collectively) relate to sin?

Grace
How do you understand grace? In what ways have you been transformed by grace? witnessed transformation by grace? How are you challenged by grace?