

PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP

The Purpose of Worship:

The purpose of worship is to glorify and to bring us into a right relationship with God. We do this through expression of adoration, love, thanks, repentance and humility, seeking not to please ourselves, but God

The Form of our Worship Service:

In our services we declare and acknowledge the greatness and glory of God, we celebrate and reflect on the truths of our faith, and we meaningfully experience moving into God's presence. Our worship does not only consist of music and singing; the full range of activities in the service is directed at glorifying God. The activities are:

- Praise and song
- Scripture reading
- Prayer
- Preaching
- Baptism of disciples
- Celebration of communion
- Giving
- Testimony
- Contemplation
- Confession
- Spirit-directed participation

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The Principles that Direct all our Worship:

1. Centred on God. We worship with the aim of loving, glorifying and experiencing God.
2. Expecting the powerful presence of God. We do not just direct ourselves toward Him. We earnestly seek His drawing near according to the promise of James 4:8. We believe that in worship God draws near to us in power, and makes Himself known in a way that blesses us, for our good and for the salvation of unbelievers in our midst.
3. Bible based and Bible-saturated. All activities in the services will always conform to the Truths of Scripture. The content of God's Word will be the authority for, and will be woven through all we do as we worship.
4. Head, heart and will: Our worship does not aim to manipulate the emotions, but to engage the wonders of God with the mind; kindle and carry deep, strong, real emotions toward God; commit to obeying His command.
5. Authentic: We renounce superficiality, pretence and frivolity. While being authentically joyful, our worship will be reverent and will be an expression of meaningful and sincere thoughts to God and about God. Music will never dominate at the expense of words.

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6. Non-distracting quality: We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from the substance by either poor delivery or excessive virtuosity. We strive for natural beauty in performance. At the same time we will give opportunities for performers to grow in competency.
7. Historic and contemporary music: We will use a seamless blend of what is precious and best from the past and the contemporary. Matt. 13:52 – and He said to them, “Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
8. Accessible: The forms of worship will be accessible to most of the congregation. While acknowledging a wide variety of tastes and seeking to be relevant to our times, extremes will be avoided.
9. Unity: Our worship will be such as to unite our church family in praising.