

Our Worship Is Christ-Centered.

Focusing on His grace and mercy to us; we worship Him, giving Him the glory that is due Him as our holy, merciful Lord.



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PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC

IN

Worship



Proclaiming Liberty *in* Christ
Growing Disciples *of* Christ

Our Worship Is Scripture-Guided.

Following what has been known since the Reformation as the Regulative Principle, we endeavor, in planning our worship services, to follow only those practices which have Biblical warrant; we endeavor to worship as God has directed in His Word. Therefore, our services will include such elements as: A Call to Worship, The Confession of Sin, Prayer, The Reading of Scripture, The Preaching of the Word, The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings, and the Singing of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs. In regard to the latter, it is imperative that songs and hymns chosen for use in worship be Scripturally sound and God-honoring.

Our Worship Is Mission-Minded.

Our worship service reflects the cultural context of the community we serve. Our church is a diverse community of different ages, educational levels and careers, and ethnic and racial backgrounds. Recognizing this diversity, we seek to have, regarding our music, a blended service—a mix of musical styles which appreciates the full

scope of our Christian heritage. We seek to bridge the generations by spanning the centuries musically. We desire to impart to the next generation a deep appreciation for their Christian roots by singing the great hymns of the faith, songs which have stood the test of time. Yet, while we look back, recognizing the rich heritage we have in worship, we are also firmly planted in the present. So we seek to incorporate the best of new music, recognizing that God's people are always creating new songs to praise Him. As we worship the Supreme Artist, we seek to use our God-given creativity, guided by Scripture, to offer Him our sacrifice of praise.

Our song selection seeks to cover the gamut of our experience with the Lord: reverence for His majesty, sorrow for our sin, and joy in His salvation. We seek to have a service that is a blend of awe, reverence and praise to God in which everything we do is to His glory, and done with the excellence our majestic God deserves. As we choose hymns and spiritual songs with which to praise God, it is our goal that all members of the congregation, including young children, be encouraged and enabled to worship the true and living God through music *in a meaningful way* during each worship service.

Knowing that there are many musical styles, and heart-felt preferences for those styles, we have chosen to be intentionally inclusive by choosing a variety of musical styles and instruments so as to reach out to all members of the congregation.

We desire to encourage all members to exercise forbearance and love for other members of the body when their particular stylistic preference is not used with a particular song or hymn. Members finding themselves in this position from time to time are encouraged to focus on the hymn or song *text* as an aid to worship, rather than the *tune or instrumental accompaniment*. The blending of styles is intended to minister to *all members* of the congregation.

By God's grace, through prayer and a tender, servant's heart toward others in the Body of Christ, our church as a whole will be able to worship in spirit and in truth utilizing various musical styles that give glory to God the Father through Jesus Christ, while meeting the need and calling of all the redeemed to worship our risen Savior, Lord and Creator.

