

DEFINING WORSHIP...

Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for You created all things,
and by your will they existed
and were created."

To worship is to ascribe worth to someone or something. All people everywhere are worshippers because we have been created to worship. The question is who or what do we ascribe worth to. We firmly believe that God is worthy of all our worship. To worship God is to give Him the glory that is due Him and to show forth His beauty and infinite worth in all that we do.

WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

Romans 12:1 describes worship as daily sacrificing ourselves for our God. All of life is worship. Everyday we have the opportunity to worship our God through how we live, what we delight in, what we think about it, how we treat others, how use our resources, etc.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

This is the gathering of God's people to corporately worship the Triune God in spirit and truth in such a way that honors Him and fuels our mission on this earth. To worship in spirit is to worship from the heart. To worship in truth is to worship in line with the truth of Bible in what it says about God and about worship.

Scripture References:

John 4:23-24, Nehemiah 9, Psalm 96, Psalm 27:4, Acts 2, Colossians 1:15-20, 1 Corinthians 14

PRINCIPLES THAT DRIVE CORPORATE WORSHIP AT GRACE CHURCH

We desire for our corporate worship to be...

CHRIST EXALTING

Jesus is the central figure of the whole Bible and our desire is to exalt Him as we gather to worship.

WORD SATURATED

The Bible is to saturate our worship service because this is the primary way in which God reveals Himself.

ALL DONE IN EXCELLENCE

God is worthy of our very best. We desire that everything from our music to our teaching to our hospitality be done in excellence.

SPIRIT FILLED

- CONVICTION & JOY -

We desire for the Holy Spirit to be at work in and through our corporate worship. We desire for the Holy Spirit to bring a deeper conviction of sin in our hearts along with the joy that comes through forgiveness and being in the presence of God.

ENGAGING THE MIND, HEART & WILL THROUGH ALL THE SENSES

We believe that God gave us each of our senses to know and understand Him more. We desire to engage the mind (our intellect), the heart (our emotions/desires) and the will (our lifestyle decisions) as we gather for corporate worship.

MISSION FUELING

The reach of our corporate worship is much farther than our own personal lives. God is on a mission to reconcile the world to Himself in Christ and we are His ambassadors. Corporate worship is to fuel us in this mission as His ambassadors.

ACCESSIBLE & CONTEXTUALIZED

We desire that no matter your spiritual background you can understand what's happening during our corporate worship service. We desire for our gathering to be hospitable and familiar yet intriguing and challenging.

GRACE CHURCH
WORSHIP • TRANSFORMATION • IMPACT

Elements of Corporate Worship...

Liturgy is a word that describes the whole of what takes place during corporate worship. There are various elements that form our liturgy each Sunday. Each element is listed below. Not all elements will be present at each service.



Call to Worship

The element that begins our corporate worship where the congregation proclaims to one another from the Scriptures why we are gathering to worship. We are calling one another to fix our eyes on why our King and Father is worthy of worship. (Psalm 100)



Confession & Assurance

Honesty is foundational to any relationships. This is an opportunity to confess our rebellion before our Father, agree with Him on it's seriousness and see our need for His grace and mercy. We are also assured through the Scriptures of our pardon because of God's love through the Cross. (1 John 1:8-9)



Responsive Reading

It is a challenge to functionally live in line with what we know to be true about our God and what He promises to us in the Gospel. Responsive Readings are an opportunity to proclaim to one another truth in order to feed our faith. Scripture and Historic Confessions/Creeds/Catechism are often used for these responsive readings. (Colossians 3:16)

Confessions & Creeds - A historic systematic summary of what the church believes from the Bible.

Catechism - A summary of what the Bible teaches in the form of question and answers used to instruct Christians



Guided Prayer

This is an opportunity to talk with our King and Father. In the busyness of life it is often hard to pause and take time to communicate with Him. There are different forms of this that may take place in corporate worship. Congregational Prayer is where the congregation is engaged in praying for specific things from mission to personal needs. Prayer of Adoration is where the main focus is to personally praise God for who He is and what He has done. Pastoral Prayer is where the pastoral staff prays over the congregation for specific needs. (Joel 1:14)



Ministry Moment

This is an opportunity to be reminded of God's work in and through His people as we hear different stories of what He is doing in our church and the world. (Acts 15:14)



Scripture Reading

The Scriptures are the primary way that God reveals Himself to His people. This element is focused on reading a portion of the Scriptures for our instruction. Oftentimes we stand in honor of the Scriptures being spoken. (Nehemiah 9:3)



Tithes & Offerings

This is an opportunity to worship our King and Father through the giving of a portion of our income. Through the tithe and offering we proclaim that all that we have comes from God and that He is better than all the riches of this earth. These tithes and offerings help carry out the mission and work of the local church. (Proverbs 3:9-10)



Singing

This is an opportunity to proclaim in unison to one another and to our God through song who He is and what He has done. Music is a beautiful expression of an inner reality. The songs come from different angles to capture our neediness and God's worthiness in the form of art. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

Doxology - This is a short spiritual song that oftentimes we sing as an expression of deep joy in our King and Father.



Sermon

This is where the Scriptures are explained and illumined so that we might be encouraged, challenged and comforted as we live in God's world and seek to follow Him. Through the sermon we hope to see more of God's worth and beauty that we might be transformed to be more like Him. (Nehemiah 8:7-8)



Baptism

This is one of two sacraments that the Lord Jesus instituted. We perform this sacrament during the worship service celebrating their entrance into God's covenant and remembering what this signifies for God's people. (Matthew 28:18-20)



The Lord's Supper

This is one of two sacraments that the Lord Jesus instituted. We perform this sacrament during the worship service to confirm and strengthen our faith in Christ as we remember and celebrate His life, death and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



Benediction

This is the closing element of the service that literally means a good word from the Lord. We leave corporate worship with this blessing as we enter the beginning of our week. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)