

## Our Form of Worship

Jesus said in John 4:23 & 24 (NIV) *“<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*”

We believe that God desires to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Jesus said in His high priestly prayer to the Father in John 17:17 *“Your word is truth.”*

We believe that the Holy Spirit, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has been given to instruct us how to worship God. Our form of worship is based on our convictions of what the Bible teaches (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Prayer:** We have a half hour time of prayer from 9:30-10 AM before our communion service on Sunday and from 7-7:30 PM before our Wednesday night service. During this time we prepare our own hearts before God and we encourage people to pray for one another. We also may have a time of prayer at any time during our worship service and a number of our songs are prayers set to music.

Isaiah 56:7 (NIV) *“these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

1 Timothy 2:8 (NIV) *“I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.”*

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 21:13, Acts 4:23-31, Acts 12:12, Acts 16:1, & Acts 20:36

**Singing:** We sing songs that are a mixture of songs inspired by scripture, scripture songs, choruses, and occasionally hymns. We use an overhead projector rather than a song book or a chorus book.

Psalms 30:4 (NIV) *“Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.”*

Psalms 47:6 (NIV) *“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.”*

Psalms 95:1 (NIV) *“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.”*

Additional New Testament Scriptures: Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, & Revelation 5:13

**Music:** Our singing is most often accompanied by music. We also believe that a music without song can be played as a form of worship.

Psalms 150:3-5 (NIV) *“<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. <sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,”*

2 Samuel 6:5 (NIV) *“David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.”*

**Additional Scriptures:** Isaiah 38:20 & Revelation 15:2

**Clapping:** Along with our singing we will at times clap our hands and on occasions just give the Lord what we call a “clap offering” as an act of adoration and praise.

**Psalms 47:1 (NIV)** *“For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. **Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.**”*

**Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)** *“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”*

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalms 98:8 & 2 Kings 11:12

**Lifting Our Hands:**

**Psalms 134:2 (NIV)** *“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.”*

**1 Timothy 2:8 (NIV)** *“I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.”*

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalms 63:4, 141:2, Lamentations 3:41, Exodus 17:8-13, 1 Kings 8:22 & 2 Chronicles 6:13

**Shouting:** On occasion during our time of singing we may give a shout to the Lord.

**Psalms 35:27 (NIV)** *“May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, “The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant.””*

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalms 27:6, 32:11, 47:1, 98:4, 132:9 & 16, 2 Samuel 6:15, & Joshua 6:10, 16 & 20.

**Standing:** Many of our people will often stand during our time of worship in song, though it is not required. We believe that God is much more concerned about the position of the heart than of our body. Whatever position allows you to personally worship in a way most comfortable for you is our desire whether it is sitting, standing, or kneeling.

**Psalms 134:1 (ESV)** *“A SONG OF ASCENTS. **Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!**”*

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalms 135:2 & Deuteronomy 10:8

**Kneeling:** Although kneeling is often thought of in terms of prayer, one can also kneel while singing or singing a prayer.

**Psalms 95:6 (NIV)** *“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;”*

**Acts 9:40 (NIV)** *“Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.”*

**Additional Scriptures:** 2 Chronicles 6:13, Luke 22:41, Acts 20:36

We do not allow dancing in the church though it is clearly a Biblical form of worship as found in Psalms 149:3 & 150:4 as well as other scriptures. It is clearly both allowed and

encouraged in your own private worship. Sadly in our communities culture we have found that people dance in a corporate setting to attract attention to them self rather than to extol God. Whatever distracts attention from God and focuses on people is the enemy of worship.

### Vocal Gifts of the Holy Spirit

God does not interrupt Himself. The scripture tells us that *“The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet”* and *“God is not a God of disorder but of peace”* (1 Corinthians 14:32 & 33). So we do not interrupt prayer, songs, or preaching with the use of a vocal gift. We do have a scheduled time right after our worship in song for what we refer to as the Vocal Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 are given to the church and members of the church through whom the Holy Spirit speaks are but stewards of those gifts. We are told in the Authorized Version to *“know them which labor among you...”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12) so we reserve the right to bring forth a vocal gift in the church setting to those we know and who are submitted to the leadership of this church. The primary use of the all the gifts, but especially prophecy, in the corporate setting is to edify (or build up) encourage and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). While a person is given liberty to speak the control of the church service remains with the leadership and that liberty may be withdrawn at any time for the sake of the welfare of the church body.

**Prophecy:** The Old Testament prophet Joel predicted: *“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”* (Joel 2:28 (NIV)) the gift of prophecy was first given to the church on the day of Pentecost in about 30 A.D. when 120 disciples of Jesus were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-8) and it is still a vital part of the church today. During our worship service an individual in the congregation may be inspired to speak out a word of prophecy to be heard by the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:31).

**Tongues:** Jesus said that one of the signs that would follow believers would be speaking in new tongues (Mark 16:17). This was fulfilled when believers in Christ were Baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues that they personally did not understand (Acts 2:1-4, 10:44-46, & 19:1-6).

The Apostle Paul desired all Christians to speak in tongues and was grateful to God that he spoke in tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian Church (1 Corinthians 14:5 & 18).

There are three types of tongues:

1. When a tongue unknown to the speaker is spoken out and there are people present who naturally understand that language (Acts 2:5-12). Though that was its first use, it is today the

most uncommon use of the gift of tongues though it still occurs.

2. When a tongue is spoken during a worship service during the use of the vocal gifts it is to be followed by an interpretation in the known language of the congregation (in our case English, I Corinthians 14:27). And when spoken, it builds up the church. There are three restrictions on speaking in tongues to be interpreted. One: There are to be no more than three, Two: they are to speak one at a time and then be interpreted and Three: If there is no one to interpret they are to keep silent and speak to God.

3. A tongue that is for our individual prayer life is spoken to God and edifies (builds up) the believer who is praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:2). This is the most common use of an unknown tongue. During the church service there may be people who either quietly pray in tongues or sing in tongues – though it is in the corporate church setting it is still an individual form of worship.

**Interpretation of An Unknown Tongue:** The Interpretation of Unknown Tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to the New Testament church mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10. When a tongue that is for the edifying of the church is given there should be someone in the congregation who will be given the interpretation of the tongue (1 Corinthians 14:10).

**Word of Knowledge:** This gift of the Holy Spirit is listed out in 1 Corinthians 12:8. It is similar to prophecy and occurs when God gives someone in the congregation spiritual insight into what is factually occurring in some person's life that they did not otherwise know about. In the corporate setting this is often used in encouragement for those who need healing or end some form of emotional pain. It helps to build up the faith of the one whose situation is revealed that God both knows and is intending to help.

**Singing a New Song:** A person from the congregation or the worship team may sing out a spontaneous new song. This could be a song to the Lord or a song from the Lord. At times the congregation may join in and sing this new song.

Psalms 40:3 *“He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.”*

Both Psalms 96:1 and 98:1 say, *“Oh sing to the Lord a new song.”*

Additional Scriptures Psalms 33:3 144:9, & 149:1, Revelation 5:9 & 14:3.

**Revelation:** Although the term is used of those in the office of a prophet in 1 Corinthians 14:30. For us this means a short passage of scripture that is read by a member of the congregation but not commented upon. It is most often used in a way that provides Biblical foundation for a prophecy or an interpretation to a tongue that has or will be given.