

PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP

BLUFF PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH OUR FOUNDATION

At Bluff Park Community Church, we believe that corporate worship is fundamentally a re-presentation of the Gospel through both word and symbol. This understanding shapes every aspect of our worship gatherings, as we seek to bring glory to God and good to His people.

CORE PRINCIPLES

1. Gospel-Centered Worship

We seek to structure our worship to reflect the story of the Gospel, believing that each service should lead people through the journey of encountering God's character, recognizing our need for Him, receiving His grace, and responding in gratitude and obedience.

2. Balance of Elements: We embrace the complexity of Biblical worship by intentionally maintaining healthy tensions between:

- Reverence and accessibility
- Traditional and contemporary expressions
- Structure and freedom
- Cognitive understanding and emotional engagement
- Corporate and individual participation

3. Purposeful Format: Our worship services follow a meaningful progression that reflects the Gospel narrative:

- **Adoration:** Celebrating God's character and responding to His call

- **Confession:** Acknowledging our need for grace
- **Assurance:** Receiving God's promises of forgiveness
- **Thanksgiving:** Expressing gratitude for God's mercy
- **Intercession:** Praying for God's work in our lives and world
- **Instruction:** Engaging with God's Word
- **Charge and Blessing:** Responding to God's grace with renewed commitment

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Musical Expression

We seek to select music that:

- Clearly communicates Biblical truth
- Enables meaningful congregational participation
- Reflects both historical and contemporary expressions of faith (Hymns & Contemporary Worship Songs)
- Serves the specific purpose of each worship element

2. Variety in Form

We utilize various worship components to express each aspect of the service, including:

- Corporate and individual prayer
- Scripture readings
- Congregational singing
- Responsive readings
- Sacraments
- Preaching
- Musical offerings

3. Cultural Engagement

Our worship approach seeks to:

- Maintain Biblical fidelity while speaking to our current context

- Value both tradition and contemporary relevance
- Consider the needs and capacities of our congregation
- Be accessible while maintaining excellence

GUIDING VALUES

1. **Biblical Faithfulness:** Every element of our worship must be grounded in Scripture and reflect Biblical principles.
2. **Gospel Focus:** We evaluate all worship elements by how effectively they re-present the Gospel message.
3. **Community Engagement:** Our worship should facilitate both vertical connection with God and horizontal connection within the body of Christ.
4. **Intentional Flow:** We carefully consider the emotional and spiritual journey of the service, providing appropriate space for reflection and response.
5. **Excellence and Authenticity:** We pursue excellence in our worship while maintaining authenticity and accessibility.

CONCLUSION

Our worship philosophy seeks to honor God by faithfully presenting the Gospel through corporate worship that brings glory to Him and good to His people. We recognize that this requires ongoing thoughtful consideration of how best to express these principles in our specific context while maintaining fidelity to Biblical worship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR DEEPER STUDY SEE:

- Carson, D A. *Worship by the Book*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2002.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2017.
- Frame, John M. *Contemporary Worship Music: A Biblical Defense*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Pub, 1997.
- . *Worship in Spirit and Truth*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Pub, 1996.
- Hughes Oliphant Old. *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2008.