



WORSHIP EXPLAINED

Worship is what we are called to give God continually in our lives. Our worship today prepares us for an eternity of worshipping God. Therefore, we want to explain why we worship the way we do at First Church.

The style of worship found at First Church would be characterized as historic, reformed, biblical, Christ centered and God exalting. Our worship is historic because we value the tradition of the church for the last 2000 years. We are reformed in that we want to be faithful to the Bible. In our worship we want to sing, pray, hear, read and see the Bible in the service. A Christ-centered worship service is one focused upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are God-exalting because worship is by God, to God and for God. Soli Deo Gloria.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to draw near and to worship him. God always has the first word to us, and by responding, we acknowledge that God has called us into His presence as a worshipping assembly.

HYMN OF PRAISE

The first song follows the call to worship God. Therefore, the song points us to God and why He is worthy of worship.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Praying is how we speak to God. In this prayer we want to, adore God for who He is. Thank Him for his blessings on our lives. Finally, ask for His blessing on our service.

SCRIPTURE READING

God speaks to us through the Word and we want to saturate our worship with it. Usually we pick a reading from the opposite testament from the one focused on in the sermon.

HYMN

This hymn helps tie the theme of the service together. The Scripture reading and this hymn correspond with the theme of the sermon.

OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY

God has called us to trust him in everyday especially our finances. We ask that church members give 10% of their income and more as the Lord has blessed them. We then sing the doxology, praising God and reminding ourselves of his blessing and protection on our lives.

PASTORAL PRAYER

This prayer follows a simple format:

1. Confession of Sin - we are called to live lives of repentance and so we confess our sins.
2. Assurance of Pardon - the message of the Gospel is that God has forgiven us by his grace, through faith in Jesus.
3. Request - The Pastor prays for specific people, situation, and events.
4. Blessing of the Tithes - we ask God to bless us and the money given.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We want children to know that worship is for them as much as any adult.

SERMON

The preaching of God's Word is of primary importance. Through the preaching of the Word, sinners are made aware of their need for Jesus and believers are built up in their faith. (Romans 10:17) The sermon is based on a passage of Scripture and exposit what the text says.

CLOSING HYMN

This hymn helps the congregation take in what was preached.

BENEDICTION

God has the final word in our worship service. This is not just a conclusion of the service, but it sends us forth with the assurance from God that we are forgiven, instructed and blessed. It assures us that God is going with us.