



About Worship at MCC

Why do we do what we do?

Worship is our life's response to the grace and truth of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We value worship that is...

Holy:

God is not common; hence worship is not a gig, not a platform to showcase our abilities, and not an opportunity to sing our favorite songs. We worship because He is a Holy God, and we the created – made for His pleasure – worship and serve the Creator because He alone is worthy.

Biblical:

Worship should seek to explain that God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are real, active, and relevant. Scripture should be woven in and through all that we say and do, even though we might start with faith stories or cultural artifacts in order to bridge to biblical truths.

Missional:

Worship should be inviting and evangelistic in pointing people to Jesus. To reach all, worship should be engaging, participatory, inclusive, and communal for experienced church-goers and people with little to no church experience. Bridges of familiarity allow spiritual newcomers to feel included, such as explanations of religious terms used, original language study, or cultural artifacts/metaphors that create common ground.

Authentic:

Worship should be authentic and credible; we can use candor and be real and vulnerable with one another safely. We do not need to “measure up” before approaching God. Worship outcomes should be helpful, useful, and concrete, while leaving room for the Holy Spirit to do things in, through, and to us. Worship should be prayerfully Spirit-led in planning and in the moment. Not all worship is praise – we should leave room for confession, lament, reassurance, etc.

Creative:

Worship should be thoughtfully and artistically crafted, with multi-sensory elements that purposely reference one another and flow seamlessly and naturally, without distractions, whether Scripture, Song, Story, Teaching, Communion, or Prayer. Worship should connect with our emotions and our intellects. We should expect to hear God speak to us in familiar and new ways.

Engaging:

We bring our finest, because we care that our sacrifice is truthful and brought with integrity of heart. Worship should be conducted with excellence in such a way that people become engaged with the beauty and truth of the Gospel. Careful leadership can bridge excellence with inclusion to be able to develop the team around them. God is not boring. If worship is boring, it must be us.





Relevant:

As Paul did on Mars Hill in Acts 17 with the “Statue to an Unknown God” and then by referencing “Ode to Jupiter” and “Phenomena” in his sermon (two “pop-songs” of the day), MCC is open to using cultural artifacts such as artwork, music, film, literature or even a comic strip as easily understood topical starting points and windows of familiarity through which to then preach the Gospel of Jesus.

Musical:

Music affords communal participation with God and gives the congregation a bigger voice. It grants structure and language for people to express praise, adoration, thanksgiving, confession, and lament.

Music, especially any songs that follow the message, should be informed by the topic of the day for flow, reinforcement, and to give people the opportunity to think again on what they just heard and respond personally and communally to the Word.

In the arc of the service, not everyone may be ready to approach God, so we value a blend of objective and subjective songs. While not a hard and fast rule, it is appropriate to sing *about* God (He, His) at the beginning of the service, and sing *to* God (You) later in the service. Hearing the Word of God brings experienced Christians and spiritual newbies to a common place, to approach God’s throne together.

It is important to allow space for the Holy Spirit to use the songs and music to engage deeply with our whole being, while remaining grounded in spiritually based truth.

MCC values congregational participation; visitors often comment on the enthusiastic singing. Too many new songs, introduced too rapidly, can quickly turn the congregation into quiet observers. Care should be given to having a rotating stable of 60 songs or so, not counting traditional holiday favorites, with thoughtfulness and sensitivity given to the introduction of new songs.

In MCC’s history and context, musical style has ranged from updated hymns, old gospel songs resembling folk music, contemporary Christian music, and modern worship songs that would be considered rock.

In the right context and with clear explanation, secular music may be used to introduce a topic that becomes fully unpacked with biblical content (refer to “relevant” earlier). However, copyrights need to be observed with live-streamed content.

