

Worship transcends time. Heaven's throne room will always resound with worship. When believers complete their sojourn on earth, they will begin eternal careers as worshippers. Yet even now, God desires believers' worship. The accumulation of worshippers is the purpose of redemption: "But \square an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father \square in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers" (John 4:23). Therefore, we at CBC encourage all believers to participate actively in worship.

The Old Testament, especially in the book of Chronicles, portrays the organization of music in King David's time (cf. 1 Chronicles 15:16-24; 2 Chronicles 5:11-14). Music was assigned. Many had to work. Skill was required. Words would have to be composed and music arranged. There was a clear sense of purpose and a high priority assigned to this godly endeavor. David once said he would "not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). The energies and resources devoted to singing well reveal that his attitude applied to this service too.

The Adult Choir is open to all believers attending CBC. Participation in the choir includes attending several rehearsals before presenting music during the corporate worship time. The choir participates in worship on a semi-regular basis.

The worship ministry through music provides the body of Christ at CBC with an opportunity to engage in heartfelt and meaningful praise of the Triune God. The style of our worship songs varies, ranging from classic and contemporary hymns to doctrinally rich praise songs. We offer to God our praise and adoration through singing, choral music, ensembles, and special presentations. It is our goal that worship in song be a vital part of each believer's life, allowing God to mold our attitudes and actions as we give voice to the "new song" He has placed in our hearts.

About the Worship Ministry:

The ministry of music plays a very important role in our worship services. Worshipping through song glorifies God, edifies the body, prepares our hearts for hearing the Word preached, and provides an outlet for response to teaching. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell within you with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Our love for God is expressed during our services through all elements of corporate worship, namely, preaching/teaching, prayer, giving and music.

The worship of God is every believer's highest pleasure and responsibility. The components of worship, however, are easily and often misplaced. It is a mistake to think that true worship rests upon style of music, lighting, drama, or the use of hymns or choruses. While many of these elements are important to worship, they are not the substance of worship. True biblical worship must include the following realities: that God reveals Himself through His Word; that the believer is made aware of what God has done on his behalf through the work of Christ; that worship is both glad and serious; and that if worship in song is to be God-pleasing, it must accurately reflect God's Word. Our heavenly Father expects absolutely everything we do to be an act of worship and for His glory (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Biblically speaking, worship is more than just the musical part of a Sunday service.

The Children's Choir provides an opportunity for all children attending CBC to encourage the congregation through song. Periodically, the children's choir assembles to rehearse in order to present a musical selection during the corporate worship time.

Purpose:

The purpose of worship in music is to bring glory to God by rehearsing His character (Scripture) through song. At CBC, the music ministry seeks to incorporate such music that is Christ-centered, well prepared, aesthetically pleasing, technically excellent, and thoughtful. We desire to be a place where church members who have artistic gifts employ those gifts skillfully and for their highest purpose, the honor of our Lord and the strengthening of his church. The worship ministry must always preserve its focus on worshiping God and edifying believers. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6).

Style of Music:

Scripture, not tradition (Mark 7:6-9) should govern all things. Christ Bible enjoys a variety of different musical styles and instruments. Numerous biblical examples of musical worship list a mixture of "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Passages in the Bible speak of many types of instruments used in worship. Psalm 150 lists the trumpet, harp, stringed instruments, pipe, timbrel, and cymbals among the instruments used in worship. Scripture informs us to incorporate a variety of musical selections and instruments in worshipping God.

Careful attention is also given to singing songs with biblically engaging lyrics. Since music serves as a medium for teaching and encouragement, the songs chosen for the worship time must have lyrics that conform to sound doctrine. Worshipping God through music can also be

emotional. It is appropriate for the believer to be thrilled when singing of God's goodness, reverent when singing of His holiness, thankful when singing about the cross of Christ, and expectant when anticipating future glory. All things should be "done properly and in an orderly manner" so that God will be pleased and glorified by the worship offered to Him (1 Corinthians 14:40).

The chief instrument in the worship of God is the human voice. It is the one instrument we have in common. It is capable of great beauty and resonance. The words that come from our intellect can be so affected by our emotions that song is genuinely praise with understanding. No violin or trumpet is moved or indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but the body of the believer is, 1 Corinthians 6:19.

Worship team

The Worship Team serves on a weekly basis, and leads the congregational music during the corporate worship time. Members of the worship team meet weekly for a rehearsal. Anyone interested in serving on the worship team may contact the elders or the worship leader for more information.

Instrumentalists can serve by offering their abilities in a variety of situations. An instrumentalist may be asked to provide a prelude, special music, or to accompany the singing during the corporate worship time. Those interested should contact the elders or the worship leader.

Worship team guidelines:

1. A desire to glorify God above all things.
2. A correct understanding of worshiping God through music.
3. CBC Church Membership and faithful Sunday school attendance.
4. An appropriate amount of musical talent. Individuals must be able to sing/play with good rhythm, accurate intonation, and with musical sensitivity. A basic familiarity with reading music is necessary.
5. Christ-honoring attire.
6. A willingness to follow musical direction from the worship leader.

Required Reading:

From Pride to Humility by Stuart Scott

The Call of the Christian Musician by Bob Kauflin
Women: *Modesty Matters* by Pam Hardy

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