

Elements of Our Service

Before we look at the elements of the Sunday Service, let's consider what the Sunday Service is. We come together on Sundays to renew the New Covenant that God has made with his people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God renews the vows of His covenant with us through the preaching of the Word and through the offer of the Lord's Supper, and we renew our acceptance of this covenant through praise, prayer, confession, and active reception of His Word. Each element of the service is either God speaking to us, or us responding together to God.

Singing

The proper response to the forgiveness of sins and new life we have in Jesus Christ is to worship God, and singing is one of the best ways we can do that. Singing worship songs allows us to speak the glorious truth about God and His promises to us with the right words, and to express them with the right emotions. Speaking those words only cannot touch or express the true feelings we should have towards God in the way singing can, and so God has commanded us to sing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

Confession

The confession of our sin is an admission to God and reminder to each other why we as a church need a new covenant – why we need our sins forgiven and new life in Jesus Christ. The New Covenant promises are then repeated to us by God through the reading of the Scripture. We remember then that we are indeed forgiven, and that we have peace with God.



Preaching the Word

The preaching of the Word is not "classroom instruction." It is a word from God to us, speaking through His Word by means of a preacher to His people. We are taken deeper into our understanding of the New Covenant, of the promises God has made, of the work of Jesus to enact that covenant, and of the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live a life worthy of our New Covenant status. It is to be received for what it truly is – God speaking words of life directly to the hearts of His people.

Communion

Communion is an ordinance or command given by Jesus to His people in order that we remember His death and sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins and new life in Christ. It is more than that, though. Jesus Christ is spiritually present for all who take the Lord's Supper in faith. He is truly present through the Holy Spirit in the bread and wine (or grape juice) when we eat and drink in faith. Jesus spiritually nourishes us as we participate in communion, bonding us together with Him and each other by sharing in the sufferings of Jesus which are represented in his body and blood. We do not permit anyone who has not yet been joined to Christ or his church through baptism to take communion, as the Lord's Supper is reserved for His people. We believe those who have not been baptized can be blessed by God by praying silently during the Lord's Supper, and we trust that He is using that prayer for people to come to Him through baptism.



What?

We are excited to welcome worshippers of all ages to our service! We believe that when the entire family of God gathers to worship together, reconciliation between generations begins to happen, unity is honored and God is glorified.

Why?

We have Biblical warrant from Deuteronomy 31:11-13, 1900 years of church history and empirical research supporting the idea that children belong with the rest of the body of Christ in corporate worship. During service, children watch their parents model authentic worship, and this valuable experience allows children to witness and participate in all the elements of corporate worship. Additionally, parents and children worshipping together provides a key avenue for more fruitful discipleship in the home through discussion and application of the sermon during the week.

How?

We have designed some elements of our worship service to be more accessible to children. However, it is not a children's service. We are trying to help children learn to worship with passion and depth, not get adults to worship in a childish manner. We will help provide activity sheets related to the sermon to help children to listen and learn. We also are keeping our services to 65 minutes in length by incorporating the most effective, clear and concise communication. If you are not a parent, we ask that you exercise patience and extend grace when children are noisy or disruptive and rejoice together that the collective worship of the church is a pleasing and glorifying act to our Lord.

Parents

We thank you for worshipping with us as a family! We have provided a few tips on how to help your children feel welcome and engage with the Lord during the service:

- Talk with your children about what to expect before you arrive
- Explain to them the different elements in the service and why we do them
- Have your children bring their own Bibles and ask them to look up the Scripture reading and follow along
- Pick up the WKids' Worship Notes and help your children stay engaged
- Model attentive and sincere worship
- Pray for them!

As a note, some of you may be wondering about the use of electronics or food/snacks during service. At this time, we ask that you do not use electronics as a form of entertainment during the service. Also, children are welcome to have food or snacks either before or after the service, as we want them to approach this time of worship with respect and reverence for the Lord.

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP GUIDE

Corporate worship for all ages
Sundays from 11:00am - 12:05pm