

TCGV Philosophy of Worship: Summary

Summary of Worship Style: Our worship is distinctively Reformed keeping the Word and Sacrament as the centerpiece of our worship and celebration each Sunday morning. We have “inhabited” the Reformed tradition of worship we liberally borrow from the strengths of other ecclesiastical traditions to augment and enhance the dynamic of our worship. We acknowledge the valuable contributions of other worship traditions always striving for renewal and reform in our own.

“We want to show options within wholeness or better yet to create wholeness out of options; even better than that, to long for a new synthesis of the things that are separated and to pray for a cadre of artistic and ecclesiastical leaders who will bring us into startlingly brilliant territory:...” Harold Best

The Form of Our Worship:

- **Proclamation:** We affirm the centrality of the Scriptures and the preached word as God’s living revelation to his people. When accurately interpreted and applied, we hear his voice and discern his will. Our preaching seeks to be exegetical, expository, and strives to faithfully bridge the gap between the ancient world of its revelation, and the modern world of its application.
- **Weekly Communion:** We celebrate communion each Sunday as the “real presence of Christ” ministering his grace to his people and received by faith. In communion we celebrate together the defining source of our communal life, and bring each service of worship to its climactic conclusion “lifting high the cross” as the power of God’s redeeming grace.

*This practice was altered to once a month during the covid crisis.

- **Liturgical and Historical:** Our worship makes full use of historic creeds, responsive readings, scriptural affirmations, and other time-tested expressions of our faith. With substantive and thoughtful liturgy we focus our attention vertically, and train our affections heavenward to the eternal self-revelation of God’s beauty and glory in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- **Dialogical and Conversational:** Our worship engages pastor, worship team, and congregation in a sacred dialogue affirming together as a redeemed community the truth of God’s love in Jesus. Our worship is therefore horizontal in nature as we hear the sound of each other’s voices affirming truth, singing praises, and interceding for each other. Dialogical worship strives to be active, lively, and engaging, transforming worshippers from spectator to participant.
- **Musical Style:** Our worship is hymn-driven and augmented with a steady influence of contemporary songs and modern hymns. The sources of music from which we draw on a regular basis would include traditional hymns from the Trinity Hymnal, traditional hymns re-presented with more modern musical style from the Indelible Grace and Red Mountain projects, the modern hymns of Keith and Kristen Getty, and selective songs from contemporary writers such as Fernando Ortega, Matt Redmond, Chris Tomlin, Bob Kauflin, and others.

- Worship Team and Instrumentation: We are led in worship each Sunday by a well-rehearsed worship team which consists of a keyboard player, several vocalists, guitar, bass, percussion (“box” or cajón), and cello when available. We are seeking to include and expand our instrumentation as God brings gifted musicians to strengthen and support our worship.

The Function of Our Worship: As corporate worship serves as a sanctifying means of grace in the corporate life of God’s people, we gather each Sunday with expectation of his Spirit to transform our life together:

- Confessional community, confessing our need and failure both in corporate and private prayer, striving to cultivate a community of dependence and a culture that is grace-centered.

- Repentant community, confronting the idols of our age and of our hearts as we bring our lives in full submission to the One who alone is worthy of our affections and desires.

- Gospel-centered community, celebrating through word and sacrament the transformational power of God’s free grace in the person and work of Jesus.