
Worship Team

Brookdale Presbyterian Church



Brookdale Church is called to bring the beauty of the gospel to the brokenness of life.

A Picture of Worship

We see Brookdale as a place where people are captivated by the glory of God in worship, moved by the presence of God in worship, and shaped by the rhythm of the gospel in worship.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are captivated by the glory of God in worship. We envision worship as a time when people have a sense that they are being ushered into the heavenly throne room and are filled with awe before the majesty and greatness of God. We envision worship as a time when people have their eyes drawn upward to the King of kings and Lord of lords and are overcome by the brilliant and radiant glory of who he is. We envision worship as a time when people are so captivated by the holiness, grandeur, and beauty of God that they would forget themselves and become completely consumed with worshipping him.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are moved by the presence of God in worship. We envision worship as a time when people have a palpable sense that God is there among them with his love, grace, and mercy. We envision worship as a time when people can experience the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit and be open to the sometimes surprising ways he moves and affects them in the midst of worship. We envision worship as a time when people can encounter the living God through his means of grace - that when Scripture is read or preached their hearts would be able to hear God speaking to them, that when they pray their hearts would be able to sense God meeting with them, that when they come to the Lord's Supper their hearts would be able to sense God communing with them, and that when they sing their hearts would be able to sense that God is really there among them, inhabiting the praises of his people, so that through all these things they are deeply transformed by being in the beauty of his presence.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are shaped by the rhythm of the gospel in worship. We envision worship as a time when people can rehearse the story of the gospel through the order and flow of worship so that it progressively becomes the story that defines their own identity and lives. We envision worship as a time when people can experience the beauty of the gospel as the different elements of worship work together to retell the wonderful story of what God has graciously done for us in Christ. We envision worship as a time when people can be redemptively molded into the pattern of the gospel as each week they are taken through the worship-rhythms of praise, repentance, faith, dependency upon God, and thankfulness.

A Plan for Worship

Brookdale will need to cultivate a greater focus on the glory and majesty of God in worship by shaping worship that is God-centered (focuses primarily on God, his attributes, and his works) and by leading worship in a way that directs people's attention to God and his greatness.

Brookdale will need to cultivate an environment where people can experience the presence and power of God by encouraging people to enter in, participate, and sing through the active leadership of worship leaders, by making space for the power and freedom of the Holy Spirit during worship, and by developing a greater understanding and appreciation of the means of grace as the primary ways to encounter God in worship.

Brookdale will need to grow into a deeper appreciation for the gospel pattern of worship by accentuating the gospel-shape of our worship both in the planning of worship services and in the worship leadership on Sunday morning.

Worship Team

Purpose

The purpose of the Worship Team is to develop concrete ministry efforts that will move the congregation towards the vision for worship. This will include:

- Development of specific ideas on how to accomplish the three objectives listed in “A Plan for Worship”
- Evaluation and possible implementation of “Possible Steps” suggested by the Vision Team
- Development of new ideas that will help the church live out “The Vision for Worship”

Composition

The Worship Team shall be composed of at least one elder, all pastors, an ushering leader, and several members of the congregation who have a passion for all forms of worship, in particular those who serve as musicians in the church’s worship ministry. The Worship Team should also engage and include those with gifts in the visual arts, if at all possible. The team will have one leader who will plan and lead the team meetings. The team leader role will rotate on an annual basis.

Annual Goals

- Develop a strategy for making worship more God-centered through careful song selection and setting a reverent but joyful tone to worship through leadership
- Develop a strategy to minimize disruptions during the second service
- Develop someone to lead singing during the first service
- Develop one change to worship that will help the congregation become more open to the (sometimes surprising) leading of the Holy Spirit
- Develop a way to help people understand the nature and importance of the sacraments so that they can appreciate them more and experience God through them in a more powerful way
- Evaluate both worship services in terms of content and flow and make appropriate changes that will make them more shaped by the rhythm of the gospel
- Develop ways to involve the visual arts in year, especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent
- Develop one strategy that will encourage and equip members of the congregation to have family devotional time on a regular basis in their homes
- Develop worship leaders to lead in more ways that just musically (i.e., calls to worship, comments or prayers as transitions between songs, etc.)

Assessment

- Each summer, the Worship Team will meet for an extended period to do the following
 - to evaluate how well they accomplished their goals during the past year
 - to assess the church’s progress toward the vision
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1: Not progressing 2: Some progress 3: Significant progress

Are we as a congregation becoming increasingly captivated by the glory of God?

Are we as a congregation becoming increasingly moved by the presence of God?

Are we as a congregation becoming deeper in our use of the means of grace (Scripture, prayer, and sacraments)?

Are we as a congregation becoming shaped by the rhythm of the gospel in worship?

Are we as a congregation becoming more passionate about our Triune God?

- to revisit the vision and develop new goals and strategies for the upcoming year

Team Leader

- This position should rotate on an annual basis and should include others besides just staff
 - The leader organizes meetings no less than once a year, and preferably once a semester, plus an annual retreat for assessing the previous year and planning for the upcoming year.
 - The leader is an active participant in the Ministry Leadership Team
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Vision Team Suggestions: Some Possible Steps to Get There

In order to begin developing these characteristics in worship, Brookdale should consider taking these steps:

- Begin praying that in worship God will captivate us with his glory, move us with his presence, and shape us through the rhythms of the gospel.
 - Have people praying during worship services (they would go to one service and pray during the other service), and/or praying with pastor before services, and/or praying with people at the end of services.
 - During the traditional service, have a hymn leader who can provide leadership during the singing time that will encourage people to sing, sing in unison, and to sing from the heart.
 - During both services, have a 'call to worship' and an 'invocation' (or opening prayer) that will focus people on God, invite them into worship, and ask God to show up with his presence and power.
 - In ways appropriate to each service, use art and imagery to enhance the power of worship
 - With the Worship Team, work through Mike Cospers' *Rhythms of Grace* and have the team take ownership of how to help the congregation grow and appreciate the gospel-shape of worship
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