

Family Guide to Worship



Welcome to Worship

We welcome you here this morning! You belong to God's family and we're glad you have come to worship God with us. We worship God in many different ways.

We hear God's Word

We pray to God

We sing to God

We give to God

Message to Families

Worship at Trinity is:

Intergenerational - We value all ages in worship. Worship helps children and youth develop a sense of belonging to the community and develop their identity as a person of God. For adults, children in worship provide opportunities to share faith, to learn new ways of worshipping and to exercise patience, grace and love.

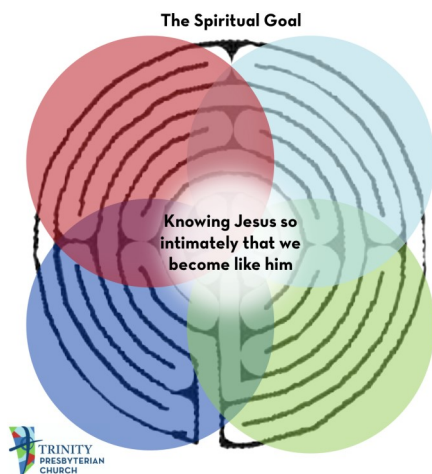
Integrated - At Trinity we like to integrate children and youth into all the ministries in the life of the church, because it helps shape and nurture them to maturity in Christ. This is true of worship. Starting at a young age children get a feel for worship on Family Worship Sundays, then as high school students they regularly attend worship with the adults. When children graduate and leave home, this integrated style of worship will help prepare them for a lifetime of engagement with Christ's church wherever they are.

Accessible - Trinity also values making worship accessible for all. The Kingdom of God is filled with persons from all levels of ability and disability, therefore we seek to make our sanctuary and worship a place of welcome for persons of varying ability, children, seniors, essentially everyone.

Kids of all ages are welcome to stay and participate in worship. We encourage you to guide your kids through the order of worship, calling attention to what's happening. This Family Guide to Worship is designed to help. Throughout it there are explanations of the different elements of worship and TIPS to help your kid engage in that element. We know that attention is sometimes short, so your kids are welcome to wander. There is a KIDSPACE in the north transept with books and activities for times when they need to fidget.

Order of Worship

In the order of worship you were given as you entered you will see that worship follows a plan every Sunday. In our tradition there is a pattern that reflects the conversation between the community and God.



- **Gather in the Word** - We gather together to begin our conversation with God. We remind ourselves that worship is about paying attention only to God. We know we aren't perfect, but we want to honor God and offer thanks for God's love for us.
- **Hear the Word** - By paying attention to God, we hear God's voice through readings and teachings. God talks through the Bible and our leaders. The Word helps guide us as we try to live like Jesus.
- **Respond to the Word** - Whenever we hear God's Word we should answer God. That's what makes worship a conversation! We do this through praying, singing and offering our gifts.
- **Sent with the Word** - We go out of worship, taking what we've heard and done, remembering to show God's love and follow Jesus every day.

Elements of Worship

Gathering Song

As we gather to worship God, we listen to music or sing a song that helps us feel closer to God.

TIP: Look in the order of worship or around the room to see what is special about today's service.



Greeting and Call to Worship

At the beginning of worship, we welcome everyone to Trinity. Then we share words that invite us to begin worshipping God. Sometimes we say the words together, or we take turns with the person leading.

TIP: Notice that the Acolytes - candle lighters - are lighting the candles at the front. The candles represent the light of Christ in the sanctuary with us.



Song of Praise

We stand to sing a joyful song to praise our God.

TIP: When the people stand in worship, it's okay for you to stand on the pew so you can see better.



Words of Confession and Assurance

Nobody's perfect. God knows that. We try to follow God and do the right thing, but when we don't we can say we're sorry to God. That's what Confession means. Sometimes we do art or writing that helps us express how we feel in our hearts. After saying we're sorry, we hear the Assurance or "Good News" that God forgives us for everything.

TIP: Can you think of something you did this week that you are sorry for?



Song of Response

Because we're so happy that God forgives us, we sing a song thanking God for loving us and remembering what God does for us.

TIP: Think of one thing that God has done for you that you are thankful for.



Peace

We share the peace of God's love with each other. We can say "Peace be with you" and the other person may say "And also with you." Or you can simply give someone a handshake, hug or high five!

TIP: Find someone you don't know who is not your age and tell them your name.



Children's Message

This is a time when children of all ages are welcomed to the front of the sanctuary. They sit on the steps and listen to a pastor or church person tell them a story or share something important about God. Children are usually excused to their classrooms after this, unless it's a Family Worship Sunday.



TIP: We usually pray at the end of the Children's Message. To end our prayer, we say "Amen" which means "so be it." Listen for other places where we say "Amen" in worship.

Scripture Reading

God's Word is written in the Scriptures. Listen very carefully! Can you find today's Scripture reading in the Bible? The readings can be from the Old or the New Testament.

TIP: There's a Table of Contents at the very beginning to help you find the book of the Bible we're reading. Find the Scripture and follow along.



Sermon (the Word Preached)

The Pastor talks about what the Scripture readings mean. We can learn about God's love for us. We can also learn how God wants us to live today.

TIP: Ask God to help you listen to the sermon.



Song of Response

We stand and sing another song because we are thankful for the Word of God that we just heard. Usually the song has something in common with the sermon or Scripture.

TIP: Listen to see if you can hear something that reminds you of the scripture or sermon.



Announcements

There are many things that happen in God's family. This is a time when you can hear important information about the life of the church.

TIP: Listen to see if there is an activity coming up that you'd like to be a part of or have questions about.



Offering

We offer gifts to God to help support the work of the church. We give our time, our talents and our money. We do this because everything we have comes from God.

TIP: While the music is playing, think about what God has given you and what you might offer God.



Prayers of the People

This is a time to share our joys and concerns with each other. Sometimes the Pastor or other leader will pray. Other times we ask people in the pews to share what is on their hearts and minds. We thank God and ask God to help us or others we know.

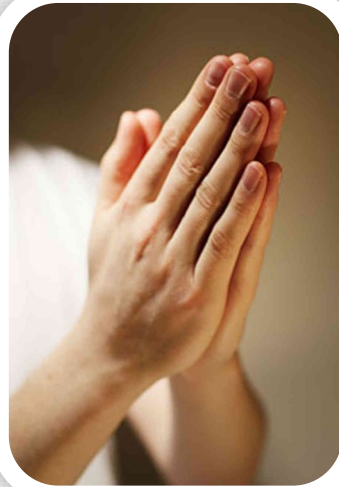
TIP: Think of at least two people that you know who you could pray for.



The Lord's Prayer

Often we say together the special prayer that Jesus taught his followers:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.*



Sending Song

We stand to sing another song that helps us remember that we are sent out into the world to do God's work.

TIP: Watch for the acolytes (candle lighters) again as they put out the candles. Jesus goes with us as we leave and stays with us always.



Benediction

At the end of worship, we stand and listen to the benediction or blessing, which means "Good Word" – which is that God goes with us as we love others just as God loves us!

TIP: Think about the people you will see in the coming week. How can you be like Jesus with them?



Postlude

We hear the joyful music as we go.



Baptism

Baptism – Sometimes we have a baptism. Through baptism, a baby, child, or adult becomes a member of God’s family, the Church. We promise to help this person grow to know God’s love.

TIP: Can you think of something you can do to welcome this person to our church family?



Communion

Communion isn’t just a worship snack. It’s joyous event with important meaning celebrated by people everywhere who are followers of Jesus. The pastor tells us about Jesus and the last meal he shared with his disciples. Through Communion we

- Give thanks to God
- Remember Jesus
- Celebrate Jesus giving his life for us
- Celebrate our togetherness

TIP: Talk to your parents at home about what Communion means and what is special about it. The church can help you understand more about it. It’s up to your parents to decide if you’re ready to participate.



New Members

During worship we celebrate and welcome those people who have become new members of our church.

These people are saying yes to following Jesus. They agree to learn more about him, showing his love to others and connect with each other.

TIP: After the members are introduced, try to remember one of them to greet after worship and welcome them to the church.







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