

Worship at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

What Worship is:

- Covenant Renewal
- Relational
- Dialogical

What worship is NOT:

- entertainment
- a concert and a lecture
- something we invent or we create

Worship does involve our creativity, but our creativity is in response to God's salvation and in obedience to God's command and established order.

What happens in worship:

- God Calls Us to Worship
- We Respond in Praise
- We Ask God to Meet with Us and Speak to Us
- He Responds with His Word/Law
- We Confess our Sins
- He Assures us of Forgiveness
- We Thank Him for His Mercy
- We Confess our Faith in Him
- We Present our Needs Before Him
- We Praise Him & Prepare our Hearts to Hear from Him
- He Speaks to Us in His Word
- We Respond in Prayer
- We Respond with Tithes and Offerings
- We Praise God
- He Blesses Us (Benediction)

Where Do We Get our Pattern for Worship?

- Israel's Worship
 - Tabernacle
 - Temple
 - Pilgrim Feasts
- Book of Psalms
 - All Major Elements of Worship
- Synagogue Worship Patterns
- Reformation:
 - **Luther:** Keep Whatever is Not Unbiblical
 - **Calvin:** Worship According to the Word
 - Regulative Principle of Worship
 - Elements According to the Word
 - Circumstances According to Wisdom

Book of Church Order, Ch. 47:

47-1 Since the Holy Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice, the principles of public worship must be derived from the Bible, and from no other source.

The Scriptures forbid the worshipping of God by images, or in any other way not appointed in His Word, and requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in His Word (WSC 51, 50).

47-9. The Bible teaches that the following are proper elements of worship:

- reading of Holy Scripture
- singing of psalms and hymns
- the offering of prayer
- the preaching of the Word
- the presentation of offerings
- confessing the faith
- observing the Sacraments
- and on special occasions taking oaths.

Westminster Shorter Catechism:

- Q. 50. *What is required in the second commandment?*
A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his word.
- Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*
A. The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

47-2 A service of public worship is not merely a gathering of God's children with each other, but before all else, a meeting of the triune God with His chosen people. God is present in public worship not only by virtue of the Divine omnipresence but, much more intimately, as the faithful covenant Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "*Where two or three are gathered together in My name there I am in the midst of them*" (Matthew 18:20).

47-3. The end of public worship is the glory of God. His people should engage in all its several parts with an eye single to His glory. Public worship has as its aim the building of Christ's Church by the perfecting of the saints and the addition to its membership of such as are being saved -- all to the glory of God. Through public worship on the Lord's day Christians should learn to serve God all the days of the week in their every activity, remembering, whether they eat or drink, or whatever they do, to do all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31).

47-6. The Lord Jesus Christ has prescribed no fixed forms for public worship but, in the interest of life and power in worship, has given His Church a large measure of liberty in this matter. It may not be forgotten, however, that there is true liberty only where the rules of God's Word are observed and the Spirit of the Lord is, that all things must be done decently and in order, and that God's people should serve Him with reverence and in the beauty of holiness. From its beginning to its end a service of public worship should be characterized by that simplicity which is an evidence of sincerity and by that beauty and dignity which are a manifestation of holiness.