

Guide to Worship

Traditional/
Convergent



cherry creek pres

A member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church



The Lord's Day

WORSHIP NOTES

*...making our worship more
meaningful & understandable*

Is the same form in worship week after week dead ritualism? Careful observers of worship will notice that we basically have the same structure (the same "liturgy") in our worship from week to week, even though the elements within that structure often change. Is that dead ritualism, or tradition for tradition's sake? Not necessarily. Christian sociologist and philosopher James K.A. Smith notes this tension in our heritage in his book *Imagining the Kingdom*: "We, especially we Protestants, have a built-in allergy to repetition in worship, though we are quite happy to affirm the value of repetition in almost every other sphere of life, from study to music to sports to art. We affirm the value of ritual repetition if we're learning piano scales or learning to hit a golf ball but are curiously suspicious of repetitive ritual in worship and discipleship" (pg. 181).

In other words, while it's good to seek after new ways to experience our God, our worship, like most other aspects of our lives, is habit-forming, and it can only be habit-forming by repetition of the same practices week after week. By engaging in such habit formation, we consistently are shaped towards a love for God and his mission by the consistent engagement of the same practices such as confession, assurance of pardon, offering, thanksgiving, sermon, and going forth in mission, etc.

GATHERING

Call to Worship *God gathers us into community*

Songs of Praise & Adoration *We join our voices with the heavenly choir*

RESPONDING

Confession & Assurance *We admit our brokenness & receive God's forgiveness*

Offering *We give ourselves to God in response to His goodness*

Prayer *Our Father loves to hear us, His children, talk with Him*

Mission *We share how God is at work in our neighborhood & the world*
2nd Sun/month

Baptism *We join ourselves to Christ in His death & resurrection*
3rd Sun/month

RECEIVING

Scripture & Sermon *The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us today through His Word*

Communion *God invites us to feast with Him at His table*
1st Sun/month

SENDING

Commissioning *We send our members out to serve in their places of work*
Select 4th Sundays/month

Benediction *God blesses us to go out to our community in joyful service*

WHAT IS LITURGY?

What is a liturgy, and why do we have it? Why is it so central to the church's life? Why, in short, is knowing something about the liturgy so central to understanding the church itself?

In its origins, the Greek word *leitourgia* meant "people's work," better translated as something like "public service" or "public duty."

Generally, it means following a set form of words, actions and rituals, as opposed to a free-form, open-ended kind of worship. This does not mean that non-liturgical churches are totally disorganized – they often plan their services according to familiar patterns and models.

WHAT DO WE DO IN OUR LITURGY?

Liturgy takes us out and it puts us in

It takes us out of the regular world and tries to re-enact and return to a sacred moment or sacred time. It is a way of putting us in touch with a particular reality, of converging and conforming our world with the supernatural.

Liturgy uses action to declare and reinforce common belief

The old phrase says *lex orandi, lex credendi*, "the law of prayer is the law of belief" --roughly, show me how you worship and I'll know what you believe.

Liturgy tells stories in ways that make us live them

People make sense of the world through story-telling.

We tell stories in different ways, sometimes through words but also through action.

Ritual and behavior can be ways of telling a story.

Liturgy unites mind and senses

It is not just rational and book-centered. It uses physical beauty as a means of presenting and reinforcing truth. Note how the readings are integrated into the larger "performance," with its moods and lessons.

Liturgy consecrates time – or else, time consecrates liturgy

Liturgical actions depend wholly on the cycles of the church year. Participating in liturgy means we share in this cycle, we join its beginnings and share the route to its end. Much of this journey involves non-literate means, including colors and lights.

That unity crosses boundaries of time and space

When you hear a liturgy today, you are doing essentially the same thing that countless others were doing a hundred or a thousand years ago.

Liturgy creates community with past and present, proclaiming a link with past and future.

(excerpted from "The Liturgy and The Church" by Philip Jenkins)

What we think of "noisy kids." Some people get concerned when their children are little noisy during the worship service. Please know that at CCPC, this doesn't bother us at all. In fact, we believe strongly that our children are "worshippers in training." We know that when we're training our little ones to love and worship God, we'll need to take time to talk to them, to explain things to them, to instruct them, and to lovingly correct them...and we'll need to do this *during* the service. A little "kid noise" reminds us that we're an intergenerational community, attempting to grow in Christ from every age and stage of life.

Preparing for Worship. On the front page of our website, you can find a link to a new blog post series entitled "Preparing for Worship." Every Friday, we will post a weekly blog where we share the upcoming Scripture and songs for that week-end's worship services. As you meditate on the text and listen to or sing along with the music, we pray that these posts will enable you—either alone or with family and friends—to prepare your hearts for worship at Cherry Creek Presbyterian.

May We Pray With You? When we join together in prayer, there is a particular power available from God. If you would like to pray for any issues in your life, please come forward after the service.

Prayer chain If you would like to be kept up-to-date on prayer needs in our church body, please sign up for the CCPC Prayer chain email at ccpcprays@gmail.com.

OUR PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Brad Strait, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bruce Finrock, Associate Pastor
Rev. Chris Piehl, Associate Pastor
Gary Hein, Executive Pastor