

Musical Worship Values Statement

We believe there is one God, the maker of Heaven and Earth, who loved the world so that he gave his only son, Jesus Christ, that we may be reconciled to him and have eternal life. God deserves our worship. Along with other creative arts, music is a significant means by which the Church expresses worship to God. The Bible specifically calls us to “sing to the LORD, all the earth (Ps 96:1).” Ephesians 5:19 says “...make music from your heart to the Lord...” We believe that our musical worship ministry should communicate the message of the Gospel and “... put us in contact with God’s glory, our sin, his provision, our response, and his peace (Christ Centered Worship, Bryan Chappell, pg 115).”

We Value...

- **Christ centered music**
 - We take example from Revelation 5 “Worth is the Lamb, who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Our musical worship should make much of Jesus and little of ourselves (John 3:30; Psalm 115:1).
- **Song content should be Biblically based**
 - Our musical worship should be a response to knowing the one true God revealed throughout the Bible. Colossians 3:16 says “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”
- **Musical worship as personal and corporate discipleship**
 - We should encourage each other to more faithfully pursue Christ. Colossians 3:16 continues “...teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Ephesians 5: 18-19 exhorts us to “... be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.”

Matters of style and preference vary greatly from church to church. We value...

- **Musical style and choice**
 - We recognize that musical styles change based on local culture and trends. We value representing contemporary styles and trends but in a manner that neither immediately accepts each change nor holds fast to traditional sounds and styles. We’re always willing to sing a “new song”. (Ps. 33:3; 96:1; 149:1; Rev. 5:9).
 - Regardless of style, song lyrics and music should be singable, playable, and interesting.

- **Congregational participation**

- We choose to love one another by deferring our personal preferences in musical tastes for the sake of the whole church. Romans 14 reminds us not to quarrel over disputable matters. Titus 2:1-6 reminds us that Christian church life involves cross-generation relationships.
- Our songs need to be easy enough to sing with enthusiasm and confidence. The music team does not lead the church as a performance, but rather leads so that the entire congregation is enabled to worship God through music without distraction or obstacle.

- **Culturally sensitive and attractive**

- Our participation as a congregation in orderly worship is a witness to visitors. (1 Cor. 14:22-40)
- We want to be “all things to all men – in order to save some” – so our worship style will have a majority of songs that are culturally pleasing in style and quality, yet God-honoring, to the contemporary world in which we live. (1 Cor. 9:19-23, Rev 5:9)

- **Music team member expectations**

- In matters of song selection and musical style, we first want to trust those involved in the music team. We believe that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead both who they are and how they lead us in musical worship.
- We value broad participation of members on the music team, regardless of musical skill or ability or spiritual gifting (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:9-13). Those who participate should be growing in their relationship with Christ and actively attend and be involved with our regular church life beyond the music ministry.
- Those who actively lead the congregation in singing are expected to be spiritually mature members of our church.
- Everyone is gifted in different ways to different levels. We value and strive for high musical quality, but our goal is to have an undistracting excellence. Our role as musicians is not to entertain through individual skill but to serve the words of a song in a way that does not detract either through poor skill or excessive display of skill.

In Mark 12, when asked what the most important commandment is, Jesus answered “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

Through our music ministry, we endeavor to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength.