

ACF Philosophy of Worship

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Philosophy of Worship

The guiding definition of worship at ACF is:

Worship is the People of God in the Presence of God for the Purposes of God and the Praises of God

Worship is our appropriate response to God's self-revelation.

An encounter with God involves strong and real emotions and clear thinking. The following values provide a center to which we lead, and boundaries that allow innovation to occur in a context of creative confidence.

1. Invitational and Evangelistic:

The ACF worship experience creates a place where people can encounter and are invited to believe in Jesus Christ. Guests and regulars alike will know that God is real and reveals his presence among us. Worship must be Christocentric, filled with joy, portray the gospel, and invite specific response.

2. Assume Nothing and Explain Everything (little | lots)

Our Sunday morning worship experiences are targeted for those who know Christ but welcoming to those whom are "exploring Christ" and "growing in Christ". To do this affectively we assume a zero to minimal biblical knowledge or Christian worldview. We recognize that basic Christian vocabulary must be explained often and that people do not have familiarity with even the most basic practices of prayer or public worship. Our aim is to meet people where they are at and move them towards a thriving relationship with Jesus.

3. Un-distracting Excellence:

We will sing, play, pray and teach in such a way that people's attention will be drawn to the beauty and truth of the content. We value excellence as a tribute to God who is the source of creativity, and out of respect for those who have gathered. Bringing our absolute best is what we strive for.

4. Participation and Performance:

We encourage and anticipate a strong participation during musical worship at ACF. We value music that is current, congregationally friendly, and expresses a full range of responses to God. Sung worship provides an excellent opportunity to teach how we are able to best relate to our heavenly Father. Performance songs are used to create engagement and help elevate teaching themes.

5. Creative and Consistent

We foster creativity in the arts as an essential part of our worship. We value creating consistent experiences so that everyone could describe with confidence what a guest would encounter in a worship service should they respond to an invitation to attend.

6. Honest and Transparent

ACF is a community of broken and restored people. This is valued through personal stories of transformation, illustration of truth using first person experience, and candor that values both grace and truth in the application of scripture.

7. Christocentric and Biblical

An ACF worship service does not speak of or address God generically, we name the persons of the trinity specifically: Jesus who saves and reconciles us, the Father who forgives and adopts us as children, and Holy Spirit who indwells us and empowers us for mission. Our worship unapologetically proclaims and focuses on the person of Jesus Christ. The content of scripture will be woven through all we do in worship, and our singing, praying, poetry, drama, etc. will always conform to the truth of the Bible. We point out how scripture influences these creative ideas.

8. Prayer and Connection:

In worship we model and explicitly teach what prayer is and how people can pray. In prayer we direct our concerns about our circumstance and this world to God, and in prayer we become a caring, repenting and renewed community. Worship gatherings both cultivate corporate prayer, and provide opportunity for prayer ministry to those who would seek it.

Notes:

Participants we are specifically mindful of in shaping and leading worship:

- Our worship services will engage challenging content appropriate to both teenagers and adults
- Our worship services are shaped with the knowledge that there are many people who are exploring Christianity who attend and participate
- Our worship services consider the spiritual life continuum (exploring, growing, maturing), and content is intended to engage growth of all by challenging the 'Growing in Christ' (the largest part of our community)
- There are many children and students involved in ACF, and we must respect the time constraints of leaders and participants in these environments.

Worship Team Expectations and Conduct

Vision – to live and lead a lifestyle of worship of Jesus Christ

Rehearsals – Thursday nights from 6:30PM – 8:30PM are mandatory for any who would participate with the weekend service; this includes sound, lighting, & visual media volunteers as well as platform musicians. We do our absolute best to be ready to start by 6:30PM, to honor one another's time. Music will be made available in the correct keys two weeks prior to the rehearsal on Planning Center Online.

- We know and understand that we honor and respect one another by coming to rehearsal prepared, knowing our individual parts, ready to bring it together as a team
- Musicians will be in contact with each other ahead of rehearsal to predetermine parts
- The Worship Pastor and/or worship leaders will make themselves accessible ahead of time to address any concerns or answer any questions regarding parts, arrangements, keys, etc.

Sunday – The scheduled team will be at the church, gear in place, set up, tuned up, warmed up, ready to start devo/sound check/rehearsal at 8AM (times will change for special services and multiple services schedule). Team will also attend the pre-service Blue Room meeting at 9AM

Availability – It is our desire that Worship Team members are serving at least twice per month in order to gain ownership of and experience the journey/momentum throughout the year. Being present with the team for rehearsals & devotional times even when not scheduled for that week's team shows commitment to the team and will be highly encouraged.

Attendance – We understand that our conduct off the stage will speak volumes to our community and that when in the congregation we are partnering with the scheduled team by leading from where we stand. Our aim is for 100% attendance, however, we also understand that there are extenuating circumstances, and a need for days of rest.

Lifestyle – As Christ followers we are all called to make disciples. This implies that as lead worshipers we are effectively saying, “Do what I do”. We do not look for perfection, rather, we look to be people whose lives are pointing to Jesus and living for His Kingdom.

Disagreements/Conflict – Will be handled Biblically, appropriately and without gossip or slander. The Worship Pastor will be available to help resolve conflicts according to the second step of Matthew 18:15-17, provide Biblical counsel, address personal concerns and pastoral needs.

Dress Code – Both men and women will dress in clean, well-fitting and appropriate clothes. *Nothing too tight, nothing too short, nothing too revealing, nothing too shabby, nothing too showy.* We will dress in such a manner as to authentically reflect who we are the rest of the week, and so as to not distract anyone from focusing on the Lord in worship.