

# Worship at Trinity is ...

February 2018

- **Central** - Worship is at the heart of what we do at Trinity. We gather each Sunday at 10am to sing and pray, to be still and silent, to listen to God's Word, to be fed at Christ's Table, and to be with one another. Worship reminds and reorients us to the big reality of who we are and who God is. All of what we do flows from this center.
- **Participatory** - N.T. Wright says: "So what is worship? The best way to discover is to join in and find out." Worship is *not* a spectator sport. Rather, worship is "the work of the people" designed for *full, active, and conscious participation* by all present.
- **Biblical** - Worship always includes the reading and proclamation of the Scriptures. More than that, all of our worship takes after the pattern set up for us in Scripture. "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*" (Colossians 3:16)
- **Authentic & Honest** - At Trinity, we know that worship means bringing our whole, real selves to the table—and that God meets us in that way. Part of that is being honest and real about our shortcomings and failings, and confessing the ways we follow after lesser 'gods'.
- **A Good Musical Mix** - We value a range of music and lyrics that spans different cultures, history, and style. We don't want to just sing songs that were written a long time ago, and we don't want to only be stuck with songs that were written recently. Either way, good theology in the song matters too. As for style, we can do Gospel songs, modern hymns, 4th century liturgies, Taize chants, and Bach's sacred works - and a good mix of all that matters.
- **For Everyone** - Worship is not just for insiders, but extends hospitality and makes room for all those who have gathered—especially including the stranger (Hebrews 13:2). Worship is for people of all races and languages, ages and stages, and for both saints and sinners. We want our worship to bring out the wonderful variety and diversity represented in our congregation and in our neighborhood.
- **Relational** - At its heart, worship is both deeply personal and communal, all at the same time. Our liturgies and songs should invite us to relate deeply with each other and with God.
- **Reflective** - In Scripture, we learn that prayer is as much about listening as it is about speaking. So we need space for silence and quiet in our fast-paced, disruptive world.
- **Liturgically-Rooted** - We take seriously the rhythms of the liturgical Christian year, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time. We return to those themes faithfully, year after year, to enter more deeply into the great story of God and of us all.
- **Creative & Collaborative**- God is an Artist, and has blessed the world with beauty. God also seeks to co-labor with us. We want to engage artists of all kinds from both our Trinity congregation and our Bryant neighborhood to share their many gifts of creativity as we collaborate together to plan worship.
- **Sacramental & Unifying** - The Sacraments are a visible expression of God's invisible grace. They also bring us together in a wonderful way as the Body of Christ. We want to be drawn further into that wonderful mystery in our worship — as we meet God and one another in Baptism and at the Table of the Lord.
- **In Joy & Sorrow** - We recognize that life is full of joy, but full of sorrow, too. God meets us in it all. The Psalms are excellent examples of this: expressing the breadth of human emotion to God in prayer. Celebration of God's amazing grace ought to be a part of every worship service, but honest lament has a place as well.
- **Gathered & Sent** - We are a missional people. We gather together, but then worship moves us to acts of mercy and justice and holiness and advocacy and kindness. Worship motivates us to take up our callings in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces during the rest of the week.