

A Congregational Worship Statement

First Baptist Church—Lampasas, Texas

FBC Lampasas identifies three essential purposes for church life: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and connecting with a Christian lifestyle. Our main setting for nurturing the God connection together is regular congregational worship.

The importance of worship calls for a statement of convictions that unite us around what Christian worship is. This statement is offered as a tool to define Christian worship, to guide us in the preparation of worship services, and to inform people of what generally can be expected in worship at FBC.

Christian Worship

Christian worship expresses genuine love to God as He is experienced in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Wherever the truth of God inspires a spirit of humble delight in Him, there is worship. In the broadest sense, all of life can be worship. In a narrower sense, Christian worship consists of specific practices that sharpen our attention to God's glory and express our response to God's grace. Our best model for worship in spirit and in truth is Jesus himself.

John 4:23–24
Romans 12:1
Matthew 4:8–10
Matthew 6:9–13
Luke 11:1

The purpose of corporate or congregational worship is to gather the church for receiving God's Word, praising God for who He is, and responding to God in loving repentance and faith. The means used for the purpose of worship include (for example) praying, singing, hearing scripture and biblical preaching, making offerings, observing baptism and the Lord's Supper, hearing instrumental worship music, sharing testimonies and commitments, and silently reflecting on God's glory. A balanced worship service helps the congregation both to hear God and to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Psalm 46:10
Hebrews 13:15
Acts 20:7
1 Corinthians 14:26
1 Corinthians 16:2
Ephesians 5:19–20
Colossians 3:16–17
Mark 12:30

The center of congregational worship is God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In a world that constantly tempts us to use even worship as a means to accomplish our own ends, God-centered worship breaks us of the habit of self-centeredness. Worship does benefit the church with inspiration, comfort, direction, motivation, transformation, and many other good results, but these are always peripheral, "icing on the cake." When we aim to seek *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then our worship takes on the right shape for today and gives back heavenly results.

Isaiah 6:1–8
Matthew 4:8–10
Revelation 22:8–9
Hebrews 12:28–29
Matthew 6:33

Worship at FBC

Regular congregational worship at FBC Lampasas is designed to gather people of all ages for Christian worship and for the fruition of the church's outreach ministries. To fulfill our outreach purpose, the church will go through individual witnessing, small group ministries, and special events and projects designed specifically for that purpose. Since God's Spirit and God's people are always drawing seekers into the life of faith and worship, we will strive to make the services welcoming and accessible to all guests, while designed for the household of God. Believers who are steadily renewed and matured through regular worship become salt and light, showing and telling their delight in Christ wherever they go.

Sunday morning worship at FBC gathers the church to rehearse and celebrate God's action through Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit from the time of the Bible accounts to the present day. Therefore, we will aim to celebrate fresh expressions of worship from contemporary Christians and also to acknowledge the great cloud of witnesses who still speak through deep-rooted words and music passed down for generations. Music in particular touches the heart and makes God's message memorable. The Bible stresses singing by the whole assembly. Using music old and new, choir-led and supplemented with solos, ensembles, and instrumental music we will strive to make active participation through congregational singing appealing. With all appropriate means, we will equip families and individuals for a lifestyle of worship everywhere and all the time.

Worship planning will be done by the pastor and a designated worship leader, in collaboration with a team of planners who bring a healthy variety of gifts to the process on behalf of the whole congregation. The planning process also provides opportunity for educating, training, and equipping future worship leaders.

Ephesians 2:19–22
1 Corinthians 2:12–14
1 Corinthians 14:23–25
John 12:32
Galatians 6:10
Matthew 5:13–16
Nehemiah 8:10
2 Peter 3:18

Exodus 15:1
Psalms 78:5–7
Psalms 149:1
Matthew 13:52
Mark 14:26
Acts 16:25

Ephesians 4:11–16
1 Corinthians 12:7