

What Happens in Public Worship

Public worship at Central Presbyterian Church is a means by which God renews and strengthens his deep bond (covenant) with his people. Therefore, the form or structure of the service is a back-and-forth exchange of friendship. The primary actions in the service are God's actions by which he serves us, and our actions in worship are an active response to God's movement toward us and his gifts to us. The following outline explains how the elements of worship follow this ancient, biblical rhythm of God's relationship with us. For the biblical origins of these components of the worship service, see the appendix "Biblical Elements of Worship."

GOD GATHERS US	God calls us to worship	God gathers and summons us before his heavenly throne for a special audience with him.
	We praise God	We respond to God's call by honoring his greatness with praise and thanks in song.
	We pray for God to help us worship	We ask the Lord to give us the ability to respond to him in worship by the supernatural power of his Holy Spirit.
GOD CLEANSES US	God calls us to confess our sin	God summons us to confess our sins to him and offers us his promises of mercy.
	We confess our sin	We turn away from our sin, confess it to God, and ask for his forgiveness.
	God declares our forgiveness	God responds to our confession by forgiving our sins.
	We praise God	Having been assured of God's favor, we offer praise and thanks for salvation from sin and access to God in Jesus Christ.

GOD INSTRUCTS US THROUGH HIS WORD	God instructs us in scripture reading	God speaks to us through the Bible to instruct, encourage, correct, comfort, exhort, and equip us.
	God instructs us in preaching	God speaks to us to explain what his word means and how to respond to him with loving obedience in our daily lives.
WE OFFER OURSELVES TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD	We offer ourselves in gifts and song	We respond to God's word by offering ourselves to God with renewed love and commitment both in song and in gifts of money to support the God's mission in the church and the world.
	We offer our prayers for the church and the world (The Lord's Prayer)	We respond to God's word by speaking back to him, which puts the sermon into action by asking him to accomplish his will in us and in the church and the world. We conclude our prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, which is a fitting summary of the mission of God's kingdom.
GOD FEEDS US AT HIS TABLE	God feeds us at his table (We thank and praise God)	Jesus serves us a meal at his table, which is a joyful victory feast celebrating Jesus' triumph over sin, Satan, and death through his death and resurrection. In the meal, God gives us the life of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to unite us with him and with one another in peace and friendship. (During and/or after the meal, we sing to thanks and praise God for all the ways that he has served us in the liturgy.)
GOD SENDS US	God blesses us and sends us out	God sends us out into the world with his blessing to serve the mission of his kingdom.

Appendix: Biblical Elements of Worship

- **Reading of Scripture** (1 Tim. 4:13; 1 Thess. 5:27; Col 4:15, 16; cf. Exod. 24; Josh 8; 24; Deut. 31:9–13; Neh. 8:1–8)
- **Preaching/teaching of Scripture** (Acts 2:42, 20; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:1–5; cf. Luke 4:20; Deut. 33:10; Neh. 8:7–8; Jer. 18:18; Hos. 4:4–6; Mal. 2:6–7)
- **Prayer** (Acts 2:42; 4:23–31; 1 Tim. 2:1–8)
 - *Multiple types of prayer for different acts of relationship (e.g., the different kinds of Psalms)*
 - Praise/thanks
 - Confession of sin
 - Lament
 - Petition/intercession/supplication
 - *Sung* (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:26; Rev. 5:9–13; 14:2–3; 15:3–4; cf. Exod. 15; the whole book of Psalms)
- **Profession of faith** (1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 3:21; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1–3; 1 Tim. 3:16; Exod. 24:7)
- **Offerings to the poor** (1 Cor. 16:1–22; 2 Cor. 9:11–15; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:16; cf. the tribute offering, e.g., Lev. 2)
- **Lord's Supper** (Matt. 26:26–28/Mark 14:22–25/Luke 22:14–23; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16–18; 11:17–34; cf. Exod. 24:11; Passover, e.g., Exod. 12; Lev. 23:4–8; peace offerings, e.g., Lev. 3)
- **Benediction/blessing of God's people** (2 Cor. 13:14; Luke 24:50; cf. Lev. 9:22–23; Num. 6:22–27; Deut. 21:5; 1 Chron. 23:13)
- **Holy kiss of greeting** (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14)
- **On the first day of the week, the Lord's Day** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10)