

develop the theme. This theme may be an attribute of God, a particular aspect of worship, a theological concept, or a special Biblical aspect of redemptive truth. Thematic worship helps to deepen worship by allowing us to focus our attention and to respond more specifically. (Psalm 150:2)

#### 6) Authentic Worship

In order for our worship to be authentic or truthful, it must be an accurate reflection of who we are. This means that the songs that we sing should help us to communicate to God an accurate reflection of His awesome worth. In addition, our music should truthfully instruct and encourage our understanding of who God is. Our music should also help us to communicate to God our desperate need for Him; and our music should help us to communicate to God how much we love Him.

In addition, authentic worship means that our styles of music, choice of instrumentation, and format or liturgy, need to connect with our present cultural setting.

While guarding against the negative aspects of our culture, our worship should not be disconnected from our everyday lives.

#### 7) Participatory Worship

Worship is by definition an action on our part. Whether we are worshipping God through our work or our recreation, at home or in a church service, worship requires participation from us. The Biblical descriptions of corporate worship include calls to

stand, shout, raise hands, clap, kneel, bow, dance, sing, pray, and more. What is missing in the Biblical description is any reference to being a spectator of worship. Merely watching others worship, is not worship!

Physical participation in worship is the Biblical model. We are aware that physical limitations may limit how one participates, but not if one participates. For example, for some it is difficult to stand for an extended period of time. If you are not able to stand as long as other, that is fine. We would just encourage you to continue worshipping God with everything that you have, even as you are seated. Our heart's affection and mind's attention are focused on God as we worship Him together through whatever way we are able to physically participate.

### **Chisholm Baptist Church**

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901 SW 6th St.  
Chisholm, MN 55719

Phone: 218-254-3307  
Fax: 218-254-3308  
Email: [adminjill@chisholmbaptist.org](mailto:adminjill@chisholmbaptist.org)  
Website: [www.chisholmbaptist.org](http://www.chisholmbaptist.org)



**Our Beliefs  
About  
Worship**

**Our Sacrifice  
Of Praise**



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**Chisholm Baptist Church**

## The purpose of Chisholm Baptist Church is to:

***By God's grace, make a difference in our community for the glory of God.***



Corporate worship is a vital and defining part of our life together as the body of Christ. As God's people, we come together to lift up the name of the Almighty and give thanks for His grace and mercy in our lives.

Worship is a response to God for who He is and for what He has done for us in Jesus Christ. Our focus should not be on what we get, but rather on what we give back to God. Worship is something we do purely and entirely for God. "Whoever seeks God as means toward a desired end will not find God," wrote A.W. Tozer, "God will not be used."

It is critical for us to understand that when we join together in corporate worship, it is not about us. Our preferences of musical style, liturgy, and format are fine for us to hold, but should not be the guiding principle in worship. Our worship is to be for God, through God, and to God.

### **Principles of Worship**

#### 1) God-Centered Worship

Acceptable worship is by definition theocentric, or God-centered. Only the Creator of the universe is worthy of our praise; and we need regular and repeated reminders to take our focus off ourselves and refocus on Him who is the Giver and Sustainer of life.

#### 2) Spirit-led Worship

Our worship is to be for God, through God, and to God. In order for this to happen, we need the Holy Spirit to empower and direct us as we worship the Almighty God. We acknowledge that all of the planning in the world and even effective manipulation of emotions can not replicate the presence of God among us. And so while we prepare and plan for each service, we still need the Holy Spirit of God to come and lead us into His presence and empower us to worship Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

#### 3) Reverent Worship

A wonderful truth for Christians is that God is not distant, but has come close through His Son, Jesus Christ. But He is also the transcendent God of the universe. Through dignified worship we come into God's presence with due reverence (Psalm 96:9).

There is plenty of room in worship for joyful and exuberant expression -- but only as an appropriate response to a holy God. Worship is NOT entertainment. Its primary purpose is to glorify God in all of His majesty.

#### 4) Blended Worship

We have presently decided not to Offer contrasting traditional/ contemporary services, but to include the body of Christ in all of its diversity in

a single kind of service. This involves incorporating a mixture of musical styles in what has been termed blended worship.

We are aware that not everyone prefers the same style of music or instrumentation, and so we are not going to be style-driven. Rather, we believe that it is important to draw from the best of the traditional music of the Church as well as the best of the contemporary music. This means that we will be frequently using new music so that we might continue to find new expressions In our worship of God. (Ps. 96:1) In addition, we are committed to using a variety of instruments, reflecting the diversity described in Biblical worship. The purpose of our selection of music and instrumentation is to utilize the best songs and instruments that we have available to truly worship God, rather than to appease the preferences of different groups.

Ultimately, we believe that blended worship provides the opportunity for God's people to exercise a gracious spirit in accepting a wider spectrum of musical styles than they may individually prefer, for the sake of the common good of God's people.

#### 5) Thematic Worship

The musical blend is given coherence through an emphasis on thematic worship. A single theme governs the selection of all music and readings used, which are woven together to