

Leading Worship at Argyle Road Baptist Church - September 2003

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

We are created to worship the living God. This is why we worship – we were made to give our whole lives back to Him who sent His Son to die in our place. And while we offer all that we are, the most visible and deliberate act of worship is what we gather to do on Sunday mornings. We sing praises, we pour out our hearts in confession, and we come before Him humbly to ask for those things that are on our hearts. We hear God's word read and preached. We sacrificially give back to God some of what he has entrusted to us.

This is His passion for us – that we would love Him, worship Him, serve Him.

And worship is not passive; over and over God's word describes the action of worship: singing, dancing, bowing, playing music, falling down before Him, lifting our hands. What God wants is not intellectual admiration but passionate involvement.

But why do we worship? We worship in response to God. We worship because we can do nothing else when face to face with the magnificent and holy God who created us, loves us, died for us, and longs for relationship with us.

At Argyle, we are striving to be a worship-centered fellowship for people of all ages and backgrounds. Being part of a worship team means taking an active role in this journey.

To worship is

*to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,
to feed the mind with the truth of God,
to purge the imagination by the beauty of God,
to open the heart to the love of God,
to devote the will to the purpose of God.*

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-1944)

Worship at ARBC

Our worship services consist of six basic elements, each rooted firmly in God's Word. They are:

- Adoration and Praise – realizing who He is and what He has done for us, and responding in song, prayer and spoken word
- Confession of our sin – realizing who we are and what we have done and responding with confession, with the full expectation of forgiveness
- Thanksgiving – acknowledging God's gifts and rejoicing, in song and prayer
- Supplication – with an eye to the things that are on our heart, asking God to intervene in our lives and the lives of others
- Sacrifice – returning to God some of what He entrusted to us
- Teaching – reading God's Word and learning from God's servants

As such, our services are structured roughly as follows:

- Call to Worship
- Silence and Preparation
- Worship through song
- Prayer of Confession
- Presentation of His Tithes and Our Offerings
- Children's Time
- Old Testament Reading
- Congregational Prayer
- New Testament Reading
- Sermon
- Response in Song
- Benediction

Team Guidelines

As worship leaders, our goal is to please God in all we do, to lead His people well, to grow in relationship with our Saviour, all the while cultivating our musicianship. We strive to do our best, and to be found worthy of our calling. To do this we work together as a team and closely with our pastors, committed to our calling.

We must at all times remember that we are an example to our congregation, whether we are leading from the front of the sanctuary or being led from the pew.

Anyone who wants to be part of a worship team is welcome, in whatever role they are gifted.

Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24