

Philosophy of Music and Worship

First Baptist Church of Hampton Falls

Goal of Worship at FBC of Hampton Falls: To present the God of the Bible with all His majesty, all His attributes, all His holiness, and all His grace in order that our hearts might be led in awe to brokenness, repentance, obedience, and satisfaction in all that God is and has provided for His people.

Definition: "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, and to devote the will to the purpose of God." -William Temple

Strategy:

1. **In our preparation and in our gathering, we will recognize that the audience of worship is God.** This means there are no spectators and no performers. We will do our best to point people to that fact.
2. **In our gathering for worship, we will plan to limit the purpose of our gathering to worship,** recognizing there are many other vital reasons for the people of God to gather at other times. If there are things that do not contribute directly to our Worship of God, we will try to address those things in other ways or at other times.
3. **Our intent for worship is that all would sense they are in the presence of the majesty of God.** This affects the music that is chosen, the leader's dress, body language, introductory comments of leaders, ushers, order of service, and spoken word.
4. **Worship plans over the course of time should reflect all revealed truth of God providing conviction, comfort, direction, assurance, mystery, and instruction.** We will work to explain things either in print or by introduction so that some of those less obvious truths will be able to be heard and understood by all. In order to maintain an atmosphere of worship, we will limit ourselves to one introduction per service.
5. **We recognize that the experience of worship is ultimately the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's heart.** This means that the worshipper must bear responsibility to prepare themselves, the leaders must feel free to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit both prior to/during a worship service, and that the Lord must get the glory.

I. Worship leaders will recognize, understand and assume a variety of responsibilities

- A. While none can ever attempt to approach God or leadership based on personal merit, there is great responsibility to lead from a heart that is broken, humble, and dependent on the Holy Spirit. Therefore, each musician must be a follower of Jesus Christ and display visible fruit, including fruit of the Spirit, moral and ethical behavior as defined by the Scriptures, involvement with Spiritual disciplines, and regular church attendance
- B. Worship leaders will understand the importance of their own preparation spiritually, mentally and physically.
- C. They will recognize that the audience of worship is God alone.
- D. They will encourage and support congregational participation
- E. They will make a conscious effort to avoid drawing attention to themselves visually-entertainment is not appropriate for worship.
- F. They will take particular care to allow for smooth transitions within the context of the worship service

II. Worship leaders will recognize that the experience of worship is ultimately the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's heart.

- A. The worshipper must bear responsibility to prepare themselves; the leaders must feel free to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit prior to and during a worship service, and the Lord must get the glory

III. Our intent for worship is that all would sense they are in the presence of the majesty of God.

- A. We can work to this end by articulating in a manner that is clear, concise, dignified and purposeful before, during and after the worship service

IV. It is our intention in our overall worship plans, to reflect revealed truths of God and provide conviction, comfort, direction, assurance, mystery, and instruction.

- A. Explanations will be provided either in print or by way of introduction to more clearly articulate the less obvious truths to bring a clearer understanding of those truths, for the purpose of maintaining an atmosphere of worship
- B. Music inserts will be provided whenever possible to encourage and assist those that prefer to read music

- V. Music must be able to be defended theologically, in terms of text, musical affect and form.**
- A. The texts of worship must be orthodox
 - B. The text and affect of the music will be carefully selected to bring about thematic and theological cohesiveness in the context of worship
 - C. Selection of music will be based on musical genre, harmonic language, rhythms, and musical instruments, all for the purpose of confirming and effectively conveying the meaning of a particular theme and theological truth
 - D. Music specified for corporate singing will be selected in terms of theme, textual depth, and ease in singing
- VI. At the discretion of the music director, musicians may be invited to participate at any time for the sake of the enhancement of worship or special emphasis in worship.**
- VII. Familiar truths will be repeated over the course of the worship year in order to help a person to be able to articulate, defend, and be encouraged by their own faith.**
- A. Such truths include: The Gospel, Confession of Sin, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Doxology, Communion and Specific Hymns of Faith including: A Mighty Fortress, Jesus What A Friend of Sinners, O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus, Holy, Holy, Holy, There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood, Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, When I Can See My Title Clear, If You Will Trust In God To Guide You, When I Survey The Wondrous Cross, Blessed Assurance, How Firm A Foundation, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, There Is A Redeemer, How Deep The Father's Love For Us, And Can It Be That I Should Gain, It Is Well With My Soul, Day By Day And With Each Passing Moment, All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name, Now Thank We All Our God, Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, Built On The Rock....
- VII. Worship leaders will be given the freedom to use their talents, creativity and Spiritual gifts to lead all gathered worshippers to worship**
- A. With that freedom comes the responsibility to assist all worshippers to worship by following the Hampton Falls worship strategy

Music Ministry Leaders

Definition: Music ministry leaders are all people who lead the congregation in the worship of God through music. They are separate from the congregation. They may lead by use of a physical instrument or the voice instrument either as a soloist on in a group, with the congregation or separate from the congregation.

I. Qualifications of Music Ministry Leaders

1. A born again Christian with a heart after holiness
2. A sense of call to the ministry of The First Baptist Church of Hampton Falls
3. A life that embraces spiritual disciplines including regular attendance in worship
4. A life that shows evidence of the fruit of the Spirit
5. A life that is moral and ethical and has a good reputation with outsiders
6. A member in good standing or a person supportive of the theology, philosophy of ministry and covenant of the First Baptist Church of Hampton Falls
7. Your spouse (if applicable) is in agreement with you serving in this ministry

II. Expectations

1. We expect you to follow Biblical principles of relationships with people in our church community and in the world.
2. We expect you to build trust, harmony and integrity in your leadership role by being a servant of the people, by expecting of yourself what you expect of them, and by using proper channels to accomplish the task of ministry.
3. We expect you to keep things that should be kept confidential, confidential and to use discretion in what you share and with whom you share it.
4. We expect you to work with and support all church ministries such as music, missions, worship, evangelism, and fellowship.
5. We expect you to set an example of Christ-likeness in every area of your life, following the principles of leadership stated in Romans 14.
6. We expect you to embrace our church's philosophy of music in worship.
7. We expect you to be prepared physically, emotionally and spiritually as you come to lead us in worship

III. Working Relationships

1. You will be directly responsible to the Lord.
2. You will be expected to work with and through the Music Director or group director