

Corporate Worship

Welcome

New Here, Im Brandon, Celebration Groups - Gary's group is moving to drew's house, Men's Retreat, Toilets,

Introduction

- Break from our series in Luke
- Pillars of our church
 - Elders meetings for the last 6 months
- Last week - Discipleship
- This week - Corporate worship
 - Is sunday morning important? Is gathering for worship necessary for the christian? Can we gather digitally?
- This is not our home.

Psalm 42:1-6a

As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my food
day and night,

while they say to me all the day long,
"Where is your God?"

4 These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation 6 and my God.

What is the purpose of Corporate Worship?

1. To worship God
 - a. Corporate worship is not primarily about us. It is about God.
 - i. We must take care not to lean toward entertainment-based gatherings rather than pure worship of God.
 - ii. We must also take care not to slide toward a man-centered focus that incorporates whatever is popular with our culture.
 1. Many churches - Ted talk with a verse

- iii. God has told us in His word how we are to worship Him
 - 1. This means we come to worship on God's terms, not ours; we do in worship what God wants, not what we want.
 - 2. John Calvin was so adamant about this point, he said, 'the entire project of the Protestant Reformation was about worshiping God in a way that was pleasing to Him.'
- iv. The First filter we use to determine what happens in corporate worship- is this helping us to glorify and worship God?
- 2. To Encourage and Build up the Church
 - a. 1 Cor. 14:26 - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
 - i. Are we building up people?
 - ii. The second filter we use to determine what happens in corporate worship. "Will this edify the church?"
- 3. To Show the World what Heaven will be like one day
 - a. Community, Unity, Love, Mercy, Joy, Worship
 - b. 1st Corinthians 1:22-24 - For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 - i. The third filter we use to determine what happens in corporate worship is, "will this show the world what heaven is like?"
 - ii. Jesus Christ need be the only stumbling block we present to people
 - 1. We need to provide a welcoming environment, well prepared sermons, fully prepared worship team, helpful caring volunteers, fully staffed childcare or they will be hindrances to people hearing the message of Jesus Christ

Where Celebration Church has been with Corporate Worship

- 1. God's Word - Pastor Chip
- 2. Joyful
 - a. United Spirit, always willing to lend a hand (story of moving to Montrose)
- 3. Welcoming
 - a. Extremely friendly, (If you are new)

Where Celebration Church is Going with Corporate Worship

- 1. Everything done intentionally as to the Lord
 - a. I promise to come prepared.
 - b. Our worship team practices every thursday night, learning new songs, and practicing for Sunday
- 2. Worship Team
 - a. A/V Improvements - we've been making many behind the scenes improvements:
 - i. Sound Board

- ii. Amp
 - iii. Drums
 - iv. Cameras
 - v. Computers
 - vi. Software
 - vii. Training
 - viii. Working to mic instruments, and improving quality to achieve a smooth time of worship and preaching free of technical errors, and to be able to have a better youtube presence as many of our members are worshipping from home.
 - ix. We've been extremely fortunate that most of these improvements were covered by specifically allocated donations and did not come out of our church budget.
2. Celebration Kids
 - a. Increased Security
 - b. Check-in System
 3. Welcome Table/Greeters
 - a. Street to Seat
 - i. Studies show that most people have made up their mind about a church within the first 7 minutes of arriving. (before the third song)
 - b. Welcome Table
 - c. Connect Cards
 4. Digital Presence
 - a. Website
 - i. Studies show that 70% of new visitors will visit the website before visiting the church
 - ii. Last month we had over 523 people view our website from google
 - b. Online Giving
 1. This helps us be consistent in our giving, and ensures we give our first fruits to God before we spend it on other things. And it can be done at any time.
 - ~~2. Celebration Church has had a challenging time in the past knowing what exactly we should expect each month. Some months it is a lot, and other months it is not much. And it usually coincides with people being out of town, online giving, especially recurring giving solves those problems, and helps us have a little bit more stability in our budget.~~
 - c. Video Room - Out of sight- more room for chairs
 - d. Sound improvements will transfer over to our online audience
 - i. 75-100 views every week. (people in other states and Countries)
 5. Apply
 - a. Within the last week, I have heard different people tell me to both hurry up, AND to slow down. Let me just say this. We as elders have not arrived. We don't

have all the answers on what is best for the church. We need your help, and we absolutely covet your input. We want to be faithful to respect where Celebration Church has been as a church. Faithful preaching, and growing and reaching out to those around us. Loving every person who comes. Respecting the past, but also looking toward the future

- b. Corporate Worship is not about our comfort but God's mission

Needs of the Church

1. God continues to bring people through these doors. We are growing and God is moving. But as it stands the largest thing that is holding us back is a shortage of volunteers.
 - a. We need more volunteers for Celebration Kids, Nursery, Youth Group, Worship Team, Greeters, A/V, Bible Study Teachers, and groups leaders.
 - b. We are called by God, in Ephesians 4, to utilize the gifts God has given us for the building up of the church.
 - c. If you are here, and you want to serve, come see me or one of the elders! We would love to get you plugged in and serving!
 - i. And As 1st Corinthians 12 tells us, not everyone is going to play the same role. Each of us has a unique job to do. If you don't know what you would like to do, come to us anyways and we would love to help you find your fit here and use the gifts God has given you.
 - d. We the elders are so excited for how God will move in the upcoming year, and feel privileged to have you all with us for the Glory of God.

Conclusion

Pray