

Welcome To Friends Days!

A Little About How We Worship

If this is the first time, or if you have visited only a few times to the worship assembly of the church of Christ, chances are you are going to experience worship in a slightly different way than you may be accustomed. Worship styles are often unique to any church you visit, and we are no different. But we want you to know our worship ethic, why we do what we do, and what you can expect at any Sunday morning worship service you attend. We want your worship experience to be both informative and enjoyable.

OUR WORSHIP ETHIC

Worship is bowing down toward God. Since worship is to God, feelings and personal preference take a "back seat" when it comes to deciding on what we should include in it. As this church belongs to Christ, He has outlined the ethic, or what is proper, in arriving at what makes for acceptable worship. He said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth," John 4:24. "Spirit and truth" worship is a balanced combination of "spirit," that is, "right attitude," and "truth," what God expresses in Scripture. Simply, put the right attitude with what God wants, and you have the recipe for perfect worship.

WHAT GOD PRESCRIBES IN WORSHIP

Why do we do what we do? A number of Scriptures show what the church in the first century did when they came together to worship God. When the kingdom of Christ was established, the church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers," Acts 2:42. Christians were "taught" the directions of God by the apostles. The New Testament books outline what the apostles taught. So, worship will include teaching, or preaching, 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2 Timothy 4:2-4. Also it will include "fellowship," that is sharing together in the financial needs of the church. The church was commanded to give of their means according to how they were prospered, 1 Corinthians 16:1,2. As a guest, you are not required to make a monetary offering. However your gift is always most welcomed. The church also participates in the "breaking of bread." Every first day of the week we meet to observe the feast of communion initiated by our Lord the night before He was crucified. The church met every Sunday to participate in the partaking of unleavened bread in memory of the body of Christ. Also, they partook of "the fruit of the vine," (pure juice from the grape), in memory of the blood Jesus shed for us, Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. If Jesus is your Savior, partaking of the Lord's Supper is something you should never miss. "Prayer" was a vital part of the worship assembly in the first century, and it continues to be a vital part of worship to those seeking to please God in all He desires today. Then, lastly, we sing songs. Singing is discussed numerous times in the New Testament. It was part of the worship of the church, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16. It was always *a cappella*, that is, without instrumental accompaniment.

This explains the absence of pianos, organs or bands from our worship. God has made this part of the worship for voices only. So, there you have it, a simple worship approach prescribed by an Almighty God.

WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE THIS MORNING

The typical worship service on Sunday morning at Buford will begin with an introduction by one of our shepherds. He will welcome everyone, make a few last minute announcements, encourage everyone to sign an attendance card, and then worship will begin. A song leader will direct the worship. He will lead a couple of songs, and then someone will direct the church in a prayer. After the prayer, another song will be led to prepare our thoughts for partaking of the Lord's Supper. Someone else will come to preside over the distribution of the Lord's Supper. He may have a few remarks, and may read some Scripture. After a brief prayer to bless the bread, several men will distribute it throughout the audience. Then another brief prayer will bless the "fruit of the vine." Again several men will distribute it. This will complete the Lord's Supper period. For convenience the man presiding over the Lord's Supper will also introduce the rationale for the "fellowship" or "contribution." Then several men will pass the collection plates. After this period another song will be led. Then another man will read some Scriptures. Then our minister will preach a lesson. His lessons will be ended with an invitation for salvation, restoration to fallen members, or any prayer needs. If you feel compelled to respond by giving your life to Jesus, you may walk down the aisle at this time and give your hand to the minister. One of the Shepherds of the church will then seek to help you with your need. After the closing remarks and another song, a closing prayer will be led to end the worship assembly period.

We hope you enjoy worshipping with us today, and will come back anytime we meet. If we can assist you personally feel free to speak with any member.

—Scott