

# Preparing For Worship

## Vol. 2

3-6-2015

Dear Grace Members and friends,

The Convergence Worship Task Force is continuing to implement one aspect of the changes in worship. This communication is called **Preparing for Worship** and we are hoping to have it available to so you can be aware of any new elements, songs or changes that are coming up as we go on this journey together.

Here are a few things that we looked at as we worked together to create this new worship experience. These are the kind of things we will include for you to read, listen to and think about each week, along with anything new or changing.

First a prayer to read as we approach worship this Sunday

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* [Rom. 12:1-2](#) (NIV)

*Worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.* [Phil. 3:3b](#) (ESV)

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of corporate worship. Thank you for the honor and joy of gathering with my sisters and brothers to respond to every good thing you have given us in Christ. Free us to give you the worship you deserve and in which you delight. It's about you Father, not us—it's all about you, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

So grant us a fresh and full gaze of your mercies, lavished on us in the gospel. We want to offer you a sacrifice of praise, with *everything* we have and are. Father, you are worthy of so much more than mere lip worship; we want to declare your worth with our minds, hearts, and bodies. So consume us afresh, overwhelm us again, and liberate us for your praise.

Send your Holy Spirit, for our worship is in vain apart from the Spirit's work and presence. Free us to *glory* in Christ Jesus—to boast and exult, rejoice and rest in *everything* Jesus is, and *everything* he has accomplished for us. Turn our theology into doxology; our singing into adoration; and our listening into liberated living. We put no confidence in our *anything*, Father, but humbly and expectantly rely upon your work in our hearts and midst.

May our worship today be a sweet aroma to you, and a transforming power for us. Send us forth with your benediction, into a week of living and loving to your glory. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' exalted and loving name.

### New, different and changing

This week we will continue with the changes from last week to the **Prayers of Joys and Concerns** and **The Offering Song**. We will add a new **Doxological response** after the offering song. We will sing it to a familiar tune and it is the last verse of hymn No. 391.

Praise the Creator, Christ, and the Spirit,  
from the beginning through worlds without end:  
God who is now and evermore shall be,  
Glory forever, amen and amen!  
God who is now and evermore shall be,  
Glory forever, amen and amen!

We also will continue with the **Passing of the Peace of Christ** at the end of the service. We are doing this as a way to greet those around us and end with a way to build community. Since we stand around and greet one another after worship this seems a natural way to build on a strength we already enjoy.

### Songs and Old

Here are the links to the songs we will be singing this week in worship

10,000 reasons (Bless the Lord O my Soul)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\\_IRI0E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E)

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright No. 666

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu-1qlh7YFU>

Be Merciful to Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S646QMzHncw>

Glory and Honor to God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W0AYiyG4os>

By Thy Mercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzvDkChgcVE>

God, We Honor You (See attached Pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t74CXckY1ZU>

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3aniiKuxL8>

See you in worship!

The Worship convergence team

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And Tom Sicks