

Intentional Worship at Peace Lutheran Church

Fall 2010

I. What We Believe, Teach, and Confess about Worship

In Peace's worship, we see God working to strengthen those in faith to greater faithfulness and to restore life to those who don't yet know Jesus.

1. **Worship** is **God coming to us**;
2. **Worship** is **God inviting us** into relationship with Him
to forgive sins and strengthen faith and faithfulness;
3. **Worship** is **God working in us** the response of prayer and praise;
4. **Worship** is **God binding us** together as the body of Christ in this place;
5. **Worship** is **God transforming and shaping us** for intentional service and witness in the world.

II. Our Value Statements for Intentional Worship at Peace

1. **Worship** is **God coming to us**;
Therefore, we value worship that is both familiar and mysterious; that speaks to us in ways we can understand, coming to us through ordinary, everyday means, yet sets worship apart from our every day life as something different and extraordinary.
2. **Worship** is **God inviting us** into relationship with Him
to forgive sins and strengthen faith and faithfulness;
Therefore, we value worship that feels like coming home to long-time members yet is readily accessible to first-time guests. We value worship that holds up the Means of Grace (God's Word, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Confession & Absolution) and clearly speaks God's promises.
3. **Worship** is **God working in us** the response of prayer and praise;
Therefore, we value worship that enables and encourages full, free, and whole-hearted response from everyone in the service.
4. **Worship** is **God binding us** together as the body of Christ in this place;
Therefore, we value worship that speaks to a variety of people and unifies the whole congregation in God's Word. We value worship that impacts and includes all ages, uniting them in God's promises, inviting and equipping families to worship together.
5. **Worship** is **God transforming and shaping us** for service and witness in the world.
Therefore, we value worship that communicates in a variety of ways, growing and equipping intentional disciples who grow and equip intentional disciples through witness and service in this time and place.

III. Our Vision Statement for Intentional Worship at Peace

Worship at Peace will intentionally speak the strong **promises of God** to a **wide variety of people** in ways that are both familiar and new, comfortable and challenging.

Worship will be freely and easily accessed and entered into by both **longtime members** and **new guests**, **touching** their **minds, hearts, and lives**.

Worship will **unify** a **variety of people** and **glorify God** in a variety of ways.

Worship will **encourage** and **grow intentional disciples of Jesus** who **encourage** and **grow intentional disciples of Jesus** .

IV. Our Action Statements for Intentional Worship at Peace

- a) The form of worship will always highlight God's Word and his gifts of the Sacraments.
- b) The entire worship service will facilitate formation of God's people as intentional disciples through preaching, teaching, shaping, and equipping (e.g., thematic worship).
- c) We will give ample opportunities for worshippers to be involved in worship as opposed to observing worship (congregational singing, unison prayers, responsive readings, confession of sin, profession of faith, etc.).
- d) We will offer a variety of worship styles, intentionally designed to reach a variety of people, including traditional, contemporary, blended, and African immigrant worship.
- e) We will seek excellence in all aspects of presentation and content.
- f) We will uphold the value of worshipping together as a family. Therefore we will welcome children in worship and encourage and equip parents for this great responsibility.
- g) We will look for opportunities to bring the congregation together in worship.
- h) We will intentionally keep some parts of worship the same from week to week (to aid in accessibility and familiarity) and vary parts of the worship service from week to week (to keep it fresh and engaging).
- i) We will make the order of service available in a way that is easy to access and visually pleasing (print or screen).
- j) We will use sound and lighting technology to help worshippers hear, see, and participate in the service.
- k) We will use media and visual aids to assist the proclamation of the Word (object lessons, audio-visuals, screens, etc.).
- l) We will equip and encourage Intentional Worship through our web page
 - a. <http://www.peacechurch.org/worship.php>
 - b. <http://www.peacechurch.org/WorshipServices.php>
 - c. [Taking Worship Home blog](#) and [Preparing for Worship blog](#)