

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

We have wonderful worship together and desire to continue that until the Lord returns and we can do that in perfection together around His throne. In the meantime, may we have a good glimpse of that here.



The worship committee wants to advise the congregation of the activity relating to music in our worship services. We have had many discussions over feedback that has been given by several members relating to what and how we currently make music selections in our weekly worship services. The Worship Committee has proposed having a team of people with a music background assist the pastors in planning part of the music in our services. This team will be under the oversight of the worship committee.

The Worship Music Planning Team will present a new song to learn each month, complemented with a more familiar song. The team will coordinate how these can be taught to the church family in the worship setting: Voices of Praise, Chancel Choir, soloists, our children or young people or even another group. Encouragement is also given to sing these new songs in our sessions of Children in Worship, Sunday School, youth groups and other ministries of our church. This team will begin work in this new area of ministry immediately beginning January 1st for a trial period of 6 months. Over those six months, a review and evaluation of its effectiveness and continuation will take place. After this evaluation final approval will be made by the Elders on how we will move forward in worship music planning.

After presenting this information to the Elders a plan was approved to proceed. Also, a Worship Music Purpose Statement has been adopted to help guide the selection of all our music in worship and is as seen on the reverse of this sheet.

Your comments, suggestions, and remarks will be appreciated over these next six months. If possible, this should be done in written form addressed to the Worship Committee.

Worship Music Purpose Statement:

The mission of selecting music for worship is to encourage and facilitate the Central Avenue CRC congregation in Christ-centered, God-glorifying, biblical corporate worship that vibrantly responds to the greatness of God in His providence, grace, and love as evident in the gospel. With gratefulness for that good news, it becomes our desire to magnify God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit by skillfully combining God's Word with music, as believers have done from the beginning of time and will continue to do throughout eternity. *Please also refer to the "Statements of Principle for Music in the Church" in both the 1959 (blue) Psalter Hymnal (p. v) and the 1987/88 (grey) Psalter Hymnal (p. 11-15).*

Song Criteria:

- **Is the song singable?** Is the song too high or too low in pitch? Is the pace of the lyrics too fast or too slow for people to follow along? Does the song fit better with a soloist or group? Or can it be sung well by the whole congregation?
- **Is the song biblical?** The lyrics must be in accord to the truth of God's Word, fit with our Reformed understanding of Scripture and also the elements of Reformed worship. Is it possible that lyrics be changed to more fully reflect the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- **Is the song logically coherent?** Songs should not be random in their expression. They should be well connected in revealing the purpose of the song. As worship is centered on God and His Word, songs should also fit, whenever possible, with the theme of the sermon/service, the season, or a particular element of a given service (i.e. praise, confession, etc.).
- **Is the song God-centered?** Is the song directed toward God? Is the song a song praising God, or is it solely reflecting on the benefits he bestows to me in the experience of worship?
- **Is the Christ- and Gospel-centered?** Does it focus on boasting too much of *my own* commitment and devotion rather than the merits of Christ's finished work?