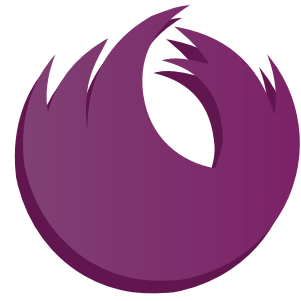


# W O R S H I P



Worship is essential to every believer's life. Here at Immanuel, our desire is for every church member to experience authentic, life-changing worship. Through authentic worship, we ascribe worth to the one true God, for He alone is worthy of our worship. Worship takes the form of both inward and outward expressions. Biblical, authentic worship is:

## COMMUNION WITH GOD

Communion: "the act of sharing; intimate fellowship or rapport." During authentic worship, a sacred act of sharing takes place between God and believers, as believers center their minds' attention and their hearts' affection solely on God. This communion with God is:

### God-Focused *(Revelation 15:4)*

- Our worship is focused on the one true God. We worship God because of Himself - it's not about us. We fix our minds upon God's greatness and His Word, striving to see Him for who He is. Biblical worship is an act of faith.

### A Personal Encounter With God *(Isaiah 6:1-5; Exodus 33:11)*

- Authentic worship is a real conversation between God and believers. In response to His greatness, we express praise, adoration and thanksgiving to God, and in turn, God reveals Himself and His presence to us.

### A Participatory Activity *(Exodus 34:8; Matthew 2:11; 1 Corinthians 14:15)*

- Bible passages pertaining to worship are full of action verbs. While worshipping God, believers actively participate, engaging their bodies, minds, and hearts.

## INWARD EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

Some worship expressions which may not be visible to those around us, but are genuinely communicated between God and the believer during times of worship are:

### Gratitude *(Colossians 3:16)*

- A grateful heart toward God is the basis for many acts of worship. It often results in both inward and outward expressions of thanksgiving.

### Meditation *(Psalm 119:15)*

- We ponder the greatness and the ways of the Lord. "I meditate on Your precepts, and consider Your ways."

### Listening *(1 Samuel 3:10; John 10:27)*

- As Samuel discovered and as Jesus taught, these two passages show that the Lord speaks to us, and we must listen attentively to His voice.

### Confession *(Psalm 51:3-13)*

- Sin causes separation between us and God. David's psalm of confession shows that proper fellowship with God can be restored when sin is confessed.

### Vows and Commitments *(Psalm 76:11)*

- When the Holy Spirit convicts us in our hearts about some matter, we decide to obey Him.

## OUTWARD EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

We hope for the outward expressions of our worship to be seen through our:

### Singing *(1 Chron 15:16; Psalm 47:6, Psalm 68:32, Col 3:16)*

▪ God's people have always been a singing people! Clearly, the Lord loves to hear the singing of praises during our worship.

### Praying *(Psalm 5:3)*

▪ "My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord, In the morning I will direct it to You and I will look up."

### Giving *(Psalm 46:10)*

▪ "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..." says the Lord Almighty. "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

**Being Still** (Psalm 46:10) ▪ "Be still and know that I am God."

**Kneeling and Bowing** (Psalm 95:6) ▪ "Come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before our maker."

**Clapping our Hands** (Psalm 47:1) ▪ "O, clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy."

**Lifting our Hands** (Psalm 63:4) ▪ "Thus will I bless You while I live, I will lift up my hands in Your name."

Worship is just one part of our church's mission. It is designed to bring believers into an encounter with the True and Living God. In addition to public worship opportunities, we also encourage believers to have times of authentic personal and family worship. This discipline will lead believers to establish worship as part of their daily lives.

**OUR VISION** | To see all people come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord to the glory of God.

**OUR MISSION** | To be and to build committed, reproducing followers of Jesus who **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with others, **GROW** in His Word and **GO** take the Gospel to our world.

