

WORSHIP @ IMMANUEL CHURCH

At Immanuel Church we believe worship is not an action on our part... it's a reaction. Whenever we get a glimpse of the glory of God it calls for a response from us. We call that response "worship". Worship is the gratitude and joy that flows from us in reply to God's being, his love, and his embrace. This is not just a Sunday activity, but something we do everyday, offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1). On Sundays, we gather as a community to praise our Creator, to seek spiritual renewal, and to commit ourselves to being faithful followers of Jesus in today's world. Through this rhythm of worship we remember the heart of our faith each week – the good news that Jesus died for our sins and was raised again to new life, and that we share in his life through the power of God's Spirit. For these reasons, our Sunday morning service has three parts:

PRAISE: We exalt the Creator of the universe. We believe that the goal of worship is to bring us face to face with God. We do not want to simply learn information about God; we want to truly hear God speak and know his presence. This happens most powerfully through Scripture and song that fills our hearts and minds with God's greatness. As we worship, we seek to be authentic before God and each other, avoiding religious attitudes that are showy or superficial. We want to

be simple, direct, and thoughtful in all our speaking, praying, and singing, full of delight and awe in God's presence.

RENEWAL: We acknowledge our need for grace. It is not enough to be told about grace – we want to be *amazed* by grace. We believe that this will happen through a profound awareness of the holiness of God and of the costliness of his sacrifice for us in Jesus Christ. In worship, we seek spiritual renewal by examining our hearts, confessing how easily we worship things other than God, and remembering that God's grace is *for us* because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Every week we confess our sin and are reminded of God's mercy, forgiveness, and love.

COMMITMENT: We surrender our lives to Christ. As we turn from ourselves and put our trust in Christ, we are transformed. We respond to God by generously giving to support the work of ministry, both at home and around the world. In prayer, we thank God for how he is at work and speak to him about our needs and the needs of our community. As we listen to the Scriptures, we believe God reveals himself to us and speaks into our lives. Finally, we receive God's blessing as we go out to love our neighbors, to pursue justice and peace in the world, and to welcome everyone to join us in worshiping the God of all beauty, grace, and truth.