

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE CHURCH

BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

"Praise the Lord for it is good to sing praise to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful" Psalm 147:1

Five centuries ago Johann Sebastian Bach said: "The aim and final reason of all music should be none else but the glory of God." At CCAC we strive to echo the words of Bach by recognizing God as the center of our adoration and praise.

BASIS FOR THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Community Christian Alliance Church is committed to worshiping God in a manner that is consistent with principles that have their source in the infallible, inerrant, and perfect Word of God. It is the Word of God that should permeate and filter every musical selection and performance (Colossians 3:16, John 4:24). With these verses as our foundation, each musical selection must reflect God's attributes as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and function as an avenue of teaching accurate biblical doctrine. Moreover, our worship through music needs to contain a devotional aspect that will usher and draw the worshiper into the wonderful presence of God.

THE NECESSITY OF WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

Singing praises to God is not an optional activity. God commands His people to render praises to Him through the specific use of music. 1 Chronicles 16:23-35 presents the heart attitude of a worship ministry that is acceptable to God. God requires worship through music with very specific instructions and guidelines. The Word of God encourages both individual worship through song (Psalm 101:1, 104:33, 108:1, James 5:13) as well as corporate musical worship (Psalm 68:25-26, Isaiah 12:5, Heb 2:12).

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

Community Christian Alliance considers the words of Jesus Christ in John 4:24 the ideal manner and prescription in which biblical worship must be conducted. Jesus says that "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." It is our desire to worship God according to the truth of His Word (doctrinal accuracy). Community Christian Alliance Church is committed to passionately worship God in accordance with the revealed truth of His inerrant Word (1 Corinthians 14:15). We also practice and encourage worship in spirit and the exhortation of John 4:24 is to be understood as referring to the human spirit (the

totality of the inward man encompassing the plethora of human faculties, emotions, and affections).

In addition to worshipping God in spirit (the inward man) and truth (according to the Word of God) Community Christian Alliance Church affirms the necessity of our physical involvement in worship. The physical aspect of our worship is not incidental but fundamental (Romans 12:1-2). The exhortations of the Word of God regarding worship demand a specific physical involvement from the worshiper. Paul bowed his knees (Ephesians 4:14), encouraged men to raise holy hands (1 Timothy 2:8), while the twenty four elders physically bowed down before God (Revelation 4:10). One day, the entire creation will recognize the Lordship of Christ and this act of worship is represented by a physical and universal bowing of the knee (Philippians 2:9).

The external facet of our worship should be guided by Paul's instructions to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:40). Therefore, all things (including the believer's worship within a congregation) "should be done decently and in order". The Elder Board of Community Christian Alliance Church will provide specific guidance on how these biblical principles shall be assimilated and applied in the worship services of our church.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

It is our desire to worship God with a diversity of musical selections consisting of "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melodies in our hearts to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). Hence, we are going to employ a diverse worship style comprising of Christian hymns, praise choruses, psalms, instrumental music, Scripture readings and responsorial readings, creeds, individual and corporate prayer, Scripture meditation, worship through tithes and offerings, choral anthems, etc. Our worship through music encompasses a breadth of styles and blends. We benefit from both the doctrinal weight of the old hymns of our faith as well as the intimacy and devotional aspect of the newer worship choruses.

THE USAGE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The extensive use of musical instruments is commanded throughout the Holy Scriptures (1 Chronicles 15:16, Psalm 33:1-3, 81:1-4, 98:4-6, 147:7, Revelation 14:2). We are committed to employ a variety and diversity of musical instruments in our worship services with the purpose of complementing congregational singing and with the purpose of facilitating meditation on God's glorious attributes and actions.

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Community Christian Alliance Church desires to glorify God with her very best resources and with the highest effort of musical excellence. In 2 Samuel 24:24 David affirms: "I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." Our approach to worship echoes the words of King David by emphasizing the necessity of our greatest effort in worshipping the King of kings. No one should approach the worship of our Almighty God with a casual attitude. Instead, each one must do his/her very best to glorify Him with excellence and to provide a worship environment free of distractions for the local body of believers.

WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Community Christian Alliance Church commits to identify God-given gifts within her congregation with the purpose of glorifying God and ministering to the local body of believers. The Music Ministry of our church will strive to musically equip individuals within the local church "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11). Consequently, the worship ministry leadership will train and encourage musicians, with different levels of musical proficiency, towards greater development and musical excellence. In addition to musical development, our ultimate goal is to make disciples and to present every man mature in Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:28). Hence, the Worship Ministry of Community Christian Alliance Church will emphasize both the pursuit of musical excellence as well as personal holiness and maturity within its members.

PROCEDURES FOR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY IMPLEMENTATION

C. S. Lewis once said: "Anytime the worshiper's attention is drawn more to the performer than to God, the musician has done a great injustice." By the very implication of the term worship, we proclaim that the Godhead is the sole person worthy to be worshipped. In a culture where the performing arts are often oriented toward personal entertainment, our highest goal is to please our Savior, Jesus Christ. While holding fast to the supremacy of God in worship, Community Christian Alliance Church is also committed to edify the local body of believers. The Elder Board of Community Christian Alliance Church and the ministry leaders and coordinators will follow God's leading on how these principles will practically manifest.