

St. Paul's Philosophy of Worship

St. Paul's Worship Director

St. Paul's is actively seeking for a Worship Director to plan, prepare, and execute our Sunday Musical Worship. This position will be a part-time salaried position.

Musical worship is incredibly important to the experience of the Church and to God's Kingdom mission. As our church continues to grow, we are seeking to hire an experienced worship leader that can help draw us nearer to God. Our church is diverse in every sense of the word: racially, culturally, socio-economically, and geographically. Because of this, we have seen God work in powerful ways to make His power known through relationships. This new Worship Director will enjoy the dynamic experience of participating in God's Kingdom in Midtown.

As with all functions in the Church, leading worship is more about "leadership" than "worship". It is more about being a good pastor than being a good musician. It requires men and women who realize the weight of the task at hand and are willing to do whatever it takes for the sake of God's pursuit of His people in the church. Because of this, St. Paul's is seeking candidates with a strong pastoral vision, a deep passion for God, and experience leading people in personal ministry.

The Worship Director will have the following responsibilities:

- Direct the musical worship at St. Paul's each Sunday
- Assist the pastoral staff in the content for corporate worship each Sunday
- Lead personal ministry with worship team members
- Plan and prepare special worship gatherings such as Easter and Christmas.
- Others?

Strong candidates will possess the following characteristics:

- > 5 years' experience leading worship in large settings, either part time or full time
- Active personal ministry such as discipleship, evangelism, or mercy
- Strong leadership skills including public speaking, organizing teams, and strategic planning
- musicians
- Strong vocal talents. Instrumental experience is preferred, but vocal talent is necessary
- Strong musical leadership abilities. Proven experience leading and organizing

Offer details:

Location: Midtown, Atlanta
Start Date: Spring 2016
Work Load: 20 hours/week
Compensation: \$35,000 /yr

Contact:

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Leading Worship is a Sacred Duty:

"²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." – John 4:23-24

In this passage, Jesus reminds us of one of God's missions in the earth. There are many aspects to God's Kingdom mission and the church's responsibility. In addition to shepherding, evangelism, and discipline, Jesus instructs us that the Father is seeking true worshipers, who worship the Father in spirit and truth. As leaders in His Church, we have a sacred duty to steward God's people. In our organized gathering, we have the responsibility to lead people to the God who is worthy of worship. It is entrusted to us to carefully and deliberately set the stage for the Father to do His seeking.

The primary goal of this document is to describe the responsibility we have for our corporate worship and our convictions about how God would have us fulfil this calling. These responsibilities are primarily leadership objectives as opposed to musical objectives. As with all functions in the Church, leading worship is more about "leadership" than "worship". It is more about being a good pastor than being a good musician. It requires men and women who realize the weight of the task at hand and are willing to do whatever it takes for the sake of God's pursuit of His people in the church.

The following sections will provide four "perspectives" on worship as well as four "guiding principles". As St. Paul's is actively searching for a new Worship Director, this document will begin to shape our thoughts, our language, and our prayers.

Perspectives on Worship:

Musical worship has always been a cornerstone of the way God has related to His people. In order to more clearly understand the convictions we have at St. Paul's, it is first beneficial to consider some important perspectives on musical worship from the Scriptures. There are many passages, but these four perspectives represent the key beliefs of St. Paul's regarding our objectives for musical worship.

We worship for the Glory of God:

- ¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.
- ¹¹ Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the top of the mountains.
- ¹² Let them give glory to the LORD,
and declare his praise in the coastlands.
- ¹³ The LORD goes out like a mighty man,
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;

he cries out, he shouts aloud,
he shows himself mighty against his foes.
(Isaiah 42:10-13 ESV)

God alone is worthy of our worship. When we sing, we uniquely give glory to God as we unite our thoughts (what we know about God) our emotions (what we feel about God) and our will (what we want to do for Him) in a unique declaration of praise, trust, and surrender. It is clear in scripture that God is uniquely glorified in musical worship. Creation doesn't simply speak of God's glory, it sings it!

We are created for worship:

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

(Revelation 5:6-14 ESV)

We will be singing in eternity. With all of our being, we will overflow with joy, adoration and praise towards the “lamb who was slain”, who alone is truly worthy of worship. It is undeniable that God made us as humans to love music. When we truly worship in spirit and in truth, we catch a glimpse of our eternity. Not only is God uniquely glorified when we sing, we are uniquely satisfied. In heaven, when every tear is whipped away, when there is no crying nor pain anymore, we will be singing!

We worship for the sake of the Church:

- *¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,*
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,*
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

(Psalm 103:1-5)

When we sing, we direct our thoughts towards God, but we also speak to ourselves. In this Psalm, David reminds himself of the benefits of God. In musical worship, we are able to restore our strength for our journey. When we worship as a congregation, we proclaim ourselves and each other of the glories of God. Not only that, we unite our voices in a common message and experience, bringing us together as one body and one family.

We worship for the sake of the world:

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah*
- ² that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.*
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*
- ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah*
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*
- ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.*
- ⁷ God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!"*

(Psalm 67)

In this Psalm, David makes it clear that God drawing near to His people is for the sake of the world. When we sing of God's love and righteousness, it is a proclamation to the world of our faith. Just as music holds a unique position in the believer's heart, it also has the ability to reach people for Christ. When God interacts with His people during corporate musical worship, the world is watching.

Guiding principles:

Given our understanding of the responsibility we have in leading people to worship, St. Paul's is convinced of these four guiding principles for our worship. These ideas can be implemented in many different ways, but represent our core convictions about what we are working towards in our worship.

- 1) **Worship is Gospel Centered:** We need to think carefully about what we say and what we sing. Truth matters to God in worship. In selecting songs and formulating worship sets, we need to consider the possible interpretations by members of the congregation, both believers and non-believers. We want to ensure that our worship accurately declares the glories of God and that we don't misrepresent the Gospel as something that it is not.
- 2) **Worship is Culturally Sensitive:** In addition to our commitment to the truth about God, we also need to be able to understand the "truth" about our culture. Since leading worship is primarily about pastoring, we need to understand the needs, desires, strengths, weaknesses, and tastes of the people engaging in our worship. In order to love people well, we need to think carefully about how to leverage musical worship to best engage with them. This cultural sensitivity is both for the believer and non-believer. Those leading worship need to be in tune with the lives of people both "inside" and "outside" the church, so that they can reach them both.
- 3) **Worship is Musically Excellent:** When we lead worship, we are seeking to draw the congregation's attention to the Lord. In that effort, we seek to not distract. Either by putting on a "show" that glorifies our own abilities or by singing out of key, we want to clear the way for people to focus fully on the Lord. There are many ways in which the way we play (tempo, pitch, song selection, rhythm....) affects people's experience of the worship. It is a worship leader's responsibility to carefully manipulate all of these musical elements for the sake of drawing people to God.
- 4) **Worship is Holy Spirit Dependent:** Worship is from, to, and through the Holy Spirit. God is Spirit, and we must rely on Him to truly create worship. As in all pastoral ministry, we cannot hope to accomplish anything without the power of the Spirit. A worship leader realizes that the battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces. Just as he prepares and practices the music, he is also actively seeking the Lord before, after, and during worship for the sake of the people.

