

Joyful, Reverent, God-Centered

We firmly believe that man's chief end is "to glorify God and enjoy him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 1). To that end we strive to make our worship joyful, reverent, and God-centered. Every aspect of our worship is guided by biblical principles.

Joyful: Psalm 37:4 commands, "Delight yourself in the Lord," a command we take quite seriously! God himself is our chief joy and delight. In our worship we delight ourselves in the Lord through "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Col. 3:16), and we delight ourselves in his Word as we hear Scripture read and preached. Our joy is fed by the truths of the gospel, the "good news of great joy" (Lk. 2:10) that declares salvation is through Christ.

Reverent: Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." When we enter into God's presence to worship, the majesty and holiness of God is ever before us. Because God is God, and there is no other like him, we stand before him in reverence and awe.

God-Centered: The triune God is the singular focus of our worship. While we are indeed nourished and challenged to grow during the worship service, our ultimate aim is to honor God by glorifying him.

Honoring God's Word

The Word of God is precious to us, and we seek to honor it as we worship. Our worship, therefore, is not only guided by Scripture, but filled with Scripture as well. During our worship God's Word is read, preached, sung, and prayed. Because we cherish God's Word, we value expository preaching. Our pastor regularly preaches through books of the Bible and each week he seeks to explain and apply Scripture to our lives. Ultimately, we honor God's Word because it gives us a full revelation of Christ and his gospel.



Sundays at Calvin PCA

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Morning Worship: 10:15 AM
Evening Worship: 6:30 PM

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Calvin Presbyterian Church (PCA)
260 Maus Drive
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
(724-863-1192)

www.calvinpca.org

Reverence and Awe



Sunday Worship at Calvin PCA: Joyful, Reverent, God-Centered

Nothing we do as Christians is more vital than gathering together for corporate worship. In worship God speaks to and engages his people, and we respond in reverence and awe. Through worship we celebrate God's saving grace and glorious character—we make it our aim to delight ourselves in the Lord (Ps. 37:4).

It is our sincere hope and prayer that the saving presence, power, love, and authority of our King and Savior is known by all who worship with us. This brochure provides a brief overview and guide to Sunday morning worship at Calvin PCA.



A Guide to Worship at Calvin PCA

Prelude: Use the time before worship begins for silent prayer, mediation, reading the printed reflections, and examining the liturgy. Prepare your heart and mind for worship (1 Pet. 1:13).

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP: *The first movement in our worship is God's call for us to worship Him (Ps. 67). We respond by acknowledging His glory and majesty through prayer and singing. We also recognize our own sinfulness, causing us to confess our sin and acknowledge our need for forgiveness. Once assured of forgiveness, we sing a song of renewal and confess our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Call to Worship: A portion of Scripture is read to call God's people to worship the One, living and true God (Deut 31:12).

Prayer of Invocation: The pastor calls on the Triune God to be present among His people as we worship Him (Ps 141:1-2).

Hymn: This opening hymn, usually from the *Trinity Hymnal*, is a hymn of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to the God we worship (Ps 100:2).

Reading of the Law: God's law is read as a call to obedience and as a reminder of God's perfect holiness and righteousness.

Confession of Sin: Seeing a holy and righteous God, we immediately recognize our sinfulness. We confess our sin in two parts: silent, meditative, and personal confession and corporate confession. The corporate confession is read aloud in unison (1 John 1:9).

Reading of the Gospel: The forgiveness of sins is proclaimed from God's Word and received by all who have confessed their sin, repented, and trusted in Christ.

Confession of Faith: We are a confessional church (Rom 10:9). The assurance of pardon allows us to profess and affirm belief in our Lord and Savior. Our confessions of faith are taken from the early ecumenical creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Council of Chalcedon, Athanasian) and the Reformation confessions and catechisms (e.g., the Westminster Confession).

Songs of Praise: We not only confess our faith but also sing our faith. Thus, we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to give praise, glory, and honor to our God (Rev 4:8, 11).

GOD OFFERS HIS MEANS OF GRACE: *The outward means of grace which Christ uses to communicate the benefits of redemption are His Word read and preached, His sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Table, and prayer. During this movement of worship, these means of grace are on display. All of these are effectual to the elect for salvation.*

Offering/Prayer: In response to hearing God's Word, we give to Him tithes and offerings for the work of God's Kingdom (Gen 14:20; 1 Cor 16:2).

Doxology: We acknowledge God as the Giver of all blessings (spiritual and material) and sing praise in accordance.

Choir Anthem: This is a hymn, song, or spiritual song of praise and adoration sung by the choir.

Pastoral Prayer: Paul commands Timothy to have men pray publicly (1 Tim 2:1-3). This is also a means of grace (WSC 98). This prayer is a focused prayer of supplication for the needs of the congregation and for the message about to be proclaimed.

Sermon: The pastor or other qualified minister explains the text and its application to the congregation (1 Cor 1:18).

Psalm of Praise: In response to hearing God's Word proclaimed, we stand and sing a Psalm of adoration.

The Lord's Table: As a sacrament, this is a sensible sign that shows Christ and the benefits of the New Covenant (WSC 92). Particularly, we receive bread and wine by faith to partake of Christ's body and blood and show forth His death until His return (WSC 96).

GOD SENDS US OUT: *Having assembled and worshiped, God now sends us out with His blessing and assurance to be with us as we make disciples of all nations.*

Hymn: We sing a hymn, usually from the *Trinity Hymnal* as an appropriate response to the preaching and demonstration of God's Word.

Benediction: Through the minister, the congregation is blessed by God (Num 6:22-24).

*Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!*
(Psalm 96:9)
