

## WORSHIP STYLES

From our quarterly business meeting we had a question about worship styles and a question regarding the content, music, and appearance. This attempts to help us understand the differences in those styles.

We begin with traditional. Music could vary between classical to gospel depending on your area of the country. In our case, traditional worship features hymns from the Baptist Hymnal; Choir anthems/call to worship/choral response; The Doxology; Piano, Organ, Voice, handbells, and formal instruments including strings and winds. To assist the service, printed programs are provided. The service features responsive readings, corporate prayer, Children's message/sermon, formal offering, formal invitation, and pastor led prayer and message from the pulpit. Order in service and appearance marks traditional services.

Blended worship is a marriage between traditional and contemporary styles and should feature a balance of those formats. Music could vary between classical to gospel. In our case, hymns; Choir anthems/call to worship/choral response; Piano, Voice, and formal instruments including strings and winds. The Praise band is also featured with instrumentation including keyboards (multiple), guitars, bass, and drum set. Music constitutes the bulk of the service including an invitation late in the service. Printed program are optional. Services may vary to include responsive reading, corporate prayer, dance, art, and drama, Children's message/sermon, formal offering, formal invitation, pastor/lay led prayer and message from the pulpit. Other technology like videos, games, internet, and live broadcast capability may be featured. The appearance of the platform area is often full reflecting the varied gifts offered in worship leadership. An example of a blended service can be found for FCC Johnson City, TN at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITtvg4PoE7U>.

Praise team led worship is the one with which we are least familiar. The Praise band/ Worship leader instrumentation including keyboards (multiple), guitars, bass, drum set, solo instruments also including a variety of wind instruments and voices. Music is lengthy as constitutes the bulk of the service; usually 20-30 min. followed by a longer message in the service. Often times, multiple speakers are featured and technologies are essential to facilitating the service. The appearance of the space often reflects the themes of the service and the needs of the group leading worship. Theatrical set and lighting facilitate the service and work in conjunction with the use of video screen in all aspects of the service. An example for praise team lead worship can be for King Street Church at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUguzi4gq6g>.