

Mission statement

To help people embrace the story they were meant to live.

Overview

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

-Psalm 100:4

As part of the worship team, it's our duty to point people to Jesus. As a church, our mission is to help people embrace the story they were meant to live. Being true worshippers is definitely part of that story. God has called for true worshippers (John 4:23-24) and we need to model that, both on-stage and off-stage (Psalm 34:1).

God has made us all with the purpose of worshipping Him (Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 43:21) and our goal is to help everyone realize this. He loves our worship and comes to dwell in it (Psalm 22:3) - He is enthroned in our worship!

We must therefore encourage our congregation, to always come together with expectancy. There is power and freedom when people gather together to worship. Imagine a service where God's power is felt so great that we are unable to complete our plan for it (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)!

Dress code

Our team should dress casually. We want visitors to feel they can come to church just as they are and not have to dress up to be accepted.

Please refrain from wearing clothes that display inappropriate slogans and/or graphics that may offend congregation members, or distract them from worshipping.

Dress modestly. The congregation's eyes are not only on you but usually looking up towards you, so be careful with skirt and short lengths.

Weekend Services

Arrive early and help set up. The faster we set up, the faster we sound-check and have some time to relax before the service begins.

Lead by example. It's just not the worship leader's responsibility to lead people into worship - it's the whole team's responsibility.

When you're on the stage - worship God with everything you've got, and when you have a week off and are worshipping with the congregation - the exact same principle applies.

Engage with the congregation by making eye contact with those around the room. When visitors attend they will not know what is acceptable and what's not. Model ways in which we can worship - like lifting hands and clapping.

We prefer not to use music stands because we feel the stage looks cleaner without them, so do attempt to memorize the song chords and/or lyrics if possible.

There is a screen hidden at the front that displays the lyrics for the vocalists. This should be used for backup only. Although our computer operators do an excellent job of having the words there prior to the vocalists needing to sing them, this cannot be guaranteed.

During the service, when the band is waiting in the background (e.g. while a speaker is on stage), do be mindful of how you appear. While the spotlight is not necessarily on you, the congregation is still watching.

Be careful of what is said on stage before, during and after the service. The microphones may still be on.

From time to time, arrangements are known to change from those agreed before the service. The worship leader may feel to repeat a chorus, or weave back into a previous song. For the most part, these moments will be discussed before the service as possibilities.

Worship leaders, just as the setlist and song arrangements are planned, anything you wish to say between songs should also be given thought before the service. We realize that plans may change and we encourage worship leaders to lead as the Holy Spirit leads, but a little planning goes a long way.

Band members, be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing within the congregation. There are lots of immediate changes that we can make to avoid being a distraction. Electric guitar players, if during a song God is evidently at work in the room, then you should probably drop the planned guitar solo between verses two and three and play something a little more subtle. Drummers, consider different sticks (hot rods) or less cymbals during these times.

Commitment

Always keep the worship leader (or team scheduler) informed of your level of availability. We understand that this changes from time to time. There should not be any case of burn-out on our team. If you feel you are being scheduled too often, don't let it continue without speaking up.

Planning Center online has a new feature that allows you to indicate how many times per month you'd like to be scheduled.

When possible, please use Planning Center Online to block out any upcoming dates you may

not be able to serve. This makes the scheduling go much smoother.

Last minute changes are inevitable when it comes to scheduling. Please notify the worship leader (or team scheduler) as soon as possible so that we have time to find a suitable replacement.

Rehearsals

The best rehearsals are those that we have prepared for.

Be on time. If your instrument requires extra setup time, plan on arriving earlier to get a head start. If your setup time is minimal, help others with the setup of their instruments and/or gear.

Do not wait until rehearsal to ask any questions that you may have about the set and/or arrangements. Send an email or call earlier in the week.

Listen to the supplied audio files and know your parts before rehearsal. Be familiar with the song structure and how the different parts transition as Story Church song arrangements may differ slightly from the audio file.

Current arrangements will be emailed to the band prior to rehearsal - but let's be creative! Let's not settle for the same arrangements every time. Always be thinking of new and exciting arrangements and ways to transition from one song to another.

Any changes to arrangements during rehearsal will be emailed to all scheduled band members to confirm the change prior to the weekend services.

Invest

Story Church is your community. You will come to learn which songs and/or elements are most effective in engaging your community with God. Share your thoughts with the team so that we can get better at reaching our goals. Your input is important.

Take the opportunity to share with the team what God is currently doing or speaking into your life. Take an interest in each other's personal and spiritual life. Encourage and pray for one another regularly.

We never want our team to become stagnant. We need a continuous flux of new recruits. This will create breathing space within our team, preventing people from burning out. It will also create opportunity for fresh ideas to be heard and implemented. As a team member, you also play a part in recruitment.

Planning

We aim to plan set lists 2-3 weeks in advance, but keep a check on the service plan (within Planning Center Online) as changes may occur up until the weekend before. An email will be sent out to notify the team if necessary.

Recommended Reading

The Unquenchable Worshipper - Coming Back to the Heart of Worship
Matt Redman

The Art Of Curating Worship - Reshaping The Role Of The Worship Leader
Mark Pierson

No Compromise - The Life Story of Keith Green
Melody Green

Exploring Worship - The Practical Guide To Praise & Worship
Bob Sorge