

# UNDERSTANDING OUR “ORDER OF WORSHIP”

(Items in **bold** or underlined are parts of worship found in the bulletin.)

## Preparation

This is the time before the worship service begins. During this time, we welcome the people and review any important announcements (usually printed on the back of the bulletin). The prelude is a musical composition. While it is being played, people will prepare themselves to worship using meditation (silent thinking and prayer).

## Worship

The word ‘worship’ comes from an Old English word meaning ‘worthiness’ or importance. When somebody or something is important, we give them our attention, our respect, and our praise. When Christians worship God, we are giving our attention, respect, and praise to God.

At Resurrection Church, the worship service normally has 5 stages:

1. **Adoration:** Christians praise God for who he is and for what he has done. We begin by hearing God call us to worship using the words of the Bible. Then we hear the pastor welcome us on behalf of God (the ‘salutation’). In response to God’s welcome, we offer a prayer and sing a hymn of praise (‘adoration’) to God.
2. **Confession:** Christians think again about who God is, and about the wrong things we have done (‘sins’). In our morning meetings, we do this using questions and answers that teach us what God requires of us (the ‘confession of our duty’). We read these questions and answers out loud together (‘confession’).

Then we offer a prayer of confession that asks God to forgive us because of what Jesus did. Jesus, the Son of God, lived a perfect life and died a cursed death in order to give forgiveness and eternal life to all who trust in him. This promise – that God will accept any person who comes to him through Jesus – is called the ‘gospel’ (“good news”). After our prayer of confession, the pastor reads out a portion of this promise from the Bible (the “promise of the gospel”).

After confessing our sins and hearing God’s promise of forgiveness through Jesus, we respond by singing an ancient Christian song of praise (the “Gloria Patri”).

In our evening meetings, our time of confession uses statements of Christian belief (the “confession of faith”) taken from the history of the church – from the historical periods of the “Church Universal” and the “Reformation Church.”

3. **Thanksgiving & Supplication:** Christians thank God for all the good things he has done for us (‘thanksgiving’), and we offer our requests to God (‘supplication’). We begin to do this by singing a psalm – a song whose words come from the Bible itself.

After the psalm, we offer prayers for God’s kingdom. The Christians at Resurrection Church believe we are connected to other Christians in different churches around the world. Because of this, we offer prayers both for ourselves and for Christians in other places.

After the prayers for God’s kingdom, we collect an offering. The offering is where the Christians at Resurrection Church give money to support the work of the church. After the offering, we sing another ancient Christian song of praise (the “Doxology”).

4. **Hearing & Proclamation:** Christians believe God speaks to us in the words of the Bible. So we begin by asking God to help us understand his Word (the “prayer for illumination”). Then the pastor reads to us from the Bible (the “Scripture reading(s)”). After this, we listen while the pastor explains the meaning of the Bible to us (the ‘sermon’).

The pastor seeks to help us understand what the Bible says about how God is and what God has done for us. When we believe the promises of Jesus, God’s Spirit begins to live in us and to change us. This change enables us to love God and other people in new and better ways.

5. **Response & Blessing:** After hearing God speak to us in his Word, Christians respond by singing another hymn of praise to God. The worship ends after the pastor gives us God’s blessing using God’s own words from the Bible (the ‘benediction’).

## Baptism & the Lord’s Supper

On special occasions, the worship service at Resurrection Church will also include either ‘baptism’ or the “Lord’s Supper”. Both baptism and the Lord’s Supper involve special words and actions. Christians believe that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are special ways for us to experience God’s promises and grow in our relationship with him.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about what happens during the worship service, please do not hesitate to ask the pastor or one of the elders to explain it to you. We want everyone who visits Resurrection Church to understand clearly what we do and why we do it.