

# Gospel Community Church

## Worship Team Ministry Expectations

### What do we do?

**What is worship?** In a broad sense, God desires worship to be everything that we do (Romans 12:1, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31). The way we live our lives, the way we communicate with others, the things we value the most can all be worship. More specifically, music is explicitly mentioned as worship that is pleasing to God (Ephesians 5:18-21, Colossians 3:16, Psalm 105:2, Psalm 150). This is why when we gather each week we spend time singing and making music unto the Lord as a congregation. Our songs and practices must be informed by scripture, and we should never strive to create a production or performance.

**Everything we do is about God's glory, not ours.** Everything we do during a worship service should be rooted and grounded in praising and glorifying God (Psalm 95:1-7). Our aim is never to draw attention to ourselves, but rather to draw attention to who God is, what He has accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:16). Singing, playing instruments, mixing sound, directing a livestream, and presenting slides for the congregation in-person and online can all be done to the glory of God. If something ever becomes a distraction from this truth, then we must be willing to set it aside.

### How can I be a great team member?

**Spend time in the Word and with The Word.** Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35), and is The Word of God (John 1:1). Spend time each week in your Bible, reading about Him, growing in the grace and knowledge of Him (2 Peter 3:18), abiding in Him (John 15:4), and walking in Him (Galatians 5:25). Pray, listen, receive, and let the Holy Spirit, by the Word, inform your worship (Romans 12:1), and not the other way around (2 Timothy 3:16).

**Commit to the members of the Worship Team.** What an incredible privilege it is to come together each week to use what God has

given us to worship and praise Him (1 Peter 4:10-11). My desire is for the people of this team to embrace the familial aspect of our salvation; we are all one in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2, Galatians 3:28, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Therefore, spend time getting to know those on the team (1 Thessalonians 5:11), discipling and being discipled (Matthew 28:19-20), bearing each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2), loving each other (John 13:35), praying for one another (Ephesians 6:18), confessing your sins to each other (James 5:16), and stirring up good works in each other (Hebrews 10:24).

### **Commit to the people and mission of the Church outside of the Worship Team.**

There is no room for a Worship-Team-vs.-everyone-else mentality. We are not the most important or most gifted people in our church building or the Church (Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Neither are we "more qualified" for worship. Rather, we have, by the grace of God, developed skills and abilities to allow us to lead others in worship. Therefore, spend time getting to know others in church (1 Thessalonians 5:11), discipling and being discipled (Matthew 28:19-20), bearing each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2), loving each other (John 13:35), praying for one another (Ephesians 6:18), confessing your sins to each other (James 5:16), and stirring up good works in each other (Hebrews 10:24). Missional Community Groups can be a great way to dive deeper into fellowship and service beyond Sunday morning.

**Come to rehearsal on-time (early), and prepared.** This goes beyond *listening* to the songs; it means *knowing* the songs (Psalm 33:3). We do four to five songs a week so it is imperative that rehearsal is used to help us put our parts together, not to learn our parts. There is always grace, flexibility, and room for mistakes, but it is important to remember that other members of the team as well as the congregation depend on your punctuality, and preparedness (Psalm 150:2, Proverbs 3:9-10).

#### **Examples for vocalists may include, but are not limited to:**

- Knowing the form and structure of each song we are doing.
- Memorizing lyrics so you don't have to *depend* on the confidence monitor.
- Knowing when your vocal part, lead or harmony, enters and exits.
- Being able to stick to your part: lead, alto harmony, tenor harmony, etc

- Understanding how the instrumentation of a particular song or section of a song informs what to do with your voice dynamically.

**Examples for instrumentalists may include, but are not limited to:**

- Knowing the form and structure of each song we are doing.
- Knowing when your instrument enters and exits as well as sections that depend on your instrument to carry it.
- Having an idea of how we will transition between songs.
- Being familiar with the other instruments' parts, and understanding how your own part fits in with the others.
- Accurately playing the provided chord charts or arrangements so we all approach the song the same way.

**Examples for tech (sound, livestream, ProPresenter) may include, but are not limited to:**

- Knowing the form and structure of each song we are doing.
- Knowing who is leading each song.
- Having an idea of how to adjust the mix or EQ based on what instruments or vocalists are being featured.
- Anticipating reformatting of slides depending on the band's arrangement.
- Understanding the flow of service as well as transitions between segments of worship, prayer, preaching, announcements, etc.

**Spend time with the music beyond preparing your own**

**part.** You may know the words to a song, but what do they mean? Learn what the song is about, and learn what attributes of God the songs highlight. How does the music reflect what attributes the song is highlighting? These questions can sometimes be answered with a quick Google search or by the Holy Spirit recalling to your mind scripture that you've read. Become familiar with which scripture is being referenced to create the lyrics that we are singing. Spend time in personal listening and personal worship with the songs each week; let them minister to you (Psalm 40:1-3), and use them to minister to God (Psalm 150).

**Communicate using Planning Center so that services can be planned effectively.**

Respond to scheduling requests in a timely manner. If you know ahead of time that you will be unavailable to serve, use the blackout dates feature to alert of any potential conflicts. Use the resources provided for each weekly service (charts, recordings, service flow, etc) to help you be prepared to serve. Planning Center is a great tool, and when used consistently, can help us make sure we are all on the same page (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40).

**If you agree to serve a particular week, dedicate yourself to making that happen.**

Life happens, schedules change, and things beyond our control can remove our ability to serve. There is grace for all of these scenarios and more. However, understand that when you agree to serve a particular week, you are making a commitment to the members of the team, and to the members of the congregation (Matthew 5:37). If you have been scheduled, you play an important role in helping to lead the congregation that week. If it is within your power to make it happen, please honor your commitment.

**Walk in humility, and be teachable.**

Proverbs 29:23 says “One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.” Be willing to be flexible, and to make changes. Take suggestions or constructive criticism in stride and not as personal attacks. If providing a critique or suggestion, remember that Proverbs 18:21 tells us that “the power of life and death are in the tongue” and that mistakes are never an excuse to belittle someone. Take ownership, and offer suggestions if you have an idea or solution. Review the livestream to assess what went well, and what needs work. If something doesn’t go as planned, self-reflect on why that may have been the case, and make necessary adjustments. Accept that things will never be “perfect;” accept that God isn’t looking for a “perfect” worship service, but rather, those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).