

WORSHIP TEAM MINISTRY DESCRIPTION — INSTRUMENTALISTS

How important is this ministry?

Worship of God is the most important action within the life of a believer and, collectively, the church. As an individual, worship is a way of life that should occur throughout the week giving glory to God through all that we do and say. Corporate worship occurs when believers gather together to focus their praise, prayers and hearts upon God. This often times happens through the singing of hymns, Psalms and spiritual songs, as well as the reading of God's word, prayer and times of teaching. As part of the worship team you help people refocus their hearts from the cares and busyness of the world back to the proper focus in life, which is God. Through music, you help them connect emotionally to words that seek out God's heart when they are burdened, or lift up praise to God when they are full of joy. This ministry is very important to the life of our church as a congregation and also to the lives of individual Christ-followers.

A New Philosophy of Ministry

Years ago churches relied heavily on a singular piano player or organ player to lead them through songs. There would be a board mounted on the front wall of the sanctuary with the hymn numbers for the day listed. Perhaps there would be a song leader who would direct the congregation like a choir and hopefully sing in tune. For special occasions there would be a choir accompanied by piano, organ and perhaps some orchestral instruments. Wow...have times changed. Through the years worship wars have seen guitars introduced into the mix and even, at times, drums! *GASP!* I KNOW!! Where before the notes on sheet music were of utmost importance we now find ourselves tuning drums, using "pad" settings on keyboards and electric guitarists become tone chasers. Sound and the quality of it is important. Even so, the musicians, along with the singers, are responsible to model corporate worship for the congregation through being connected to the Holy Spirit. We are facilitators who spiritually guide and assist people through prayer and song. The congregation is not the audience—God is. We seek to hone our craft of musicianship through skill development as well as song shaping. All of that takes a backseat to our hearts though — are we taking time to develop our own hearts for worship as musicians?

Personal questions that can help guide the worship team in their ministry focus: "What moves me to feel connected with God? How can we shape the music to blend with scriptures and prayers so that there is a spiritual flow to the Sunday morning worship time? How can we assist people in experiencing our living, loving God this morning?"

Reflect on worship: what is your role and what is the role of the congregation? What do you believe biblical worship is and how can we effectively build into our worship times of prayer, reflection, singing, scripture reading, giving, and learning?

Ministry Requirements

- You need to have some musical ability. As an instrumentalist you will need to be able to: Confidently play your instrument, in rhythm and, in the chosen key; Be able to learn songs either by listening to them online, working on them at home if you read music; Be able to work with other musicians on the team, worship leader and music director.
- You would be expected to attend the Thursday mid-week practice. Please be setup, tuned up and ready to go by that time.
- You are expected to attend the Sunday morning practice. Please arrive to setup, tune up and get hooked up in the In-Ear Monitor system with your phone app.

- Bring your own instruments and equipment as you require. We use an in-ear monitor system, so please bring your own pair - if you do not have a pair, we can lend you one.
- **NOTE:** for electric guitar players we have put together a church pedal board if you require the use of one. You will need to pursue electric guitar IR cabs but we do provide a Strymon Iridium for people to use as well.
- We are now using tablets for our music (using the Music Stand app) and will provide a holder. If you would like to use this app, please bring your own tablet.
- A meeting with the Worship Director will be scheduled to get to know you, and talk about your role serving in worship ministry.

What do I do?

- From time to time you will be responsible to listen to and learn the worship music that we play ahead of practice (and anything new we will be doing in the future). These will be made available via the Spotify playlist (also on the Planning Centre order of service for each week)
- It is your responsibility to make sure you are able to connect to Planning Center Online and to respond to communications being sent out.
- Song keys should always be available and noted so that you can practise at home. It is our plan to have all music is linked online available for you to print or see as needed.
- Help with setup and tear down of the microphones, cables, and instruments as needed.
- If you find you are scheduled but are unable to fulfill that time please find your own replacement for that time-slot, if you are able. In the event that you cannot, please let the worship leader know with plenty of notice.
- NOTE: If you would like to serve a deeper role on the Worship Team please speak to Michelle about the role of Music Director who guides the band through the songs via their IEMs and keeps them on track.

Time Requirements

- Currently, we are scheduling teams far in advance - with some changes happening closer to the time to add new musicians, or to cover musicians if they are unable to make it that week
- We recognize many people serve in different areas and ask that in order to maintain your joy in service and not burn out, you allow yourselves one week a month to be without any ministry commitments.
- Attend mid-week practice.
- We would ask that you arrive ahead of time on Sunday to be set up, tuned, warmed up and ready to go by the practice time and know the songs and a general idea of what part you are playing.
- Throughout the year we will have special services that we ask the worship team to lead us in. Some of these include Good Friday and Christmas Eve. For extra times we will be asking people to let us know if they are available.

Prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling you to this ministry and talk to those who currently participate in it to see what their experience has been like. We are constantly trying to improve our group dynamics. If you have any questions regarding this ministry please feel free to contact Michelle Jones-Sood.