



# BECOMING A WORSHIP ARCHITECT

## Designing Services for Encountering God

Rev. Dr. Constance M. Cherry

Notes:

### WHAT IS A WORSHIP ARCHITECT?

Worship planners are worship architects.

Building architects:

- Study the landscape
- Look at the purpose of the building
- Have conversations with those who will use the building
- Create a concept/draw a picture
- Lay the foundation (including the cornerstone)
- Frame the building
- Install load-bearing walls
- Cut out doors and windows
- Place the roof

Worship Architects:

- Study the church landscape (culture)
- Look at the purpose of worship
- Have conversations with those facilitating worship
- Create a concept/design a service
- Lay biblical foundations
- Set the cornerstone--Christ
- Frame the service
- Install load-bearing "movements"
- Install doors/windows (prayers/songs)
- Leave the roof off!

### The Architectural Concept

What is the purpose of the worship service?

Who determines the purpose?

The purpose of worship is for each called community—a local church—to keep public and corporate covenant relationship with the triune God. The relationship transpires by way of conversation between God and people.

The purpose of worship is for each called community—a local church—to keep public and corporate covenant relationship with the triune God. The relationship transpires by way of conversation between God and people.

God's people gather to proclaim the Story of God and to testify to the truth of that Story. God's people

- Gather
- Are addressed by God
- Respond to God in surrender
- Are commissioned to serve God's purposes

Worship occurs through the presence of God's Son, the risen Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit who enables the community to truly fulfill the purpose of worship.

What is worship to be and do, from God's point of view?

Notes:

The purpose of a worship service will include your answers to questions such as:

- Whom will you worship?
- Ultimately, who is worship for?
- What is the relationship between the recipient of worship (God) and the nature of the event?
- Whose story is told?

### **Defining Worship**

Worship is the expression of a relationship in which God the Father reveals himself and his love in Christ, and by his Holy Spirit administers grace, to which we respond in faith, gratitude, and obedience. (Robert Schaper: *In His Presence*, pp. 15-16)

## **LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS: SIX BUILDING BLOCKS FOR BIBLICAL WORSHIP**

### **Biblical Principles for Worship**

The worship of the living and true God is essentially an engagement with God on the terms that God proposes and in the way that God alone makes possible.

Building Block 1: Worship is Centered in God's Acts of Salvation  
Worship is a result of and response to great saving events performed by God.

Building Block 2: The Pattern of Worship is Revelation and Response  
Worship is a conversation between two parties: God and people.

Building Block 3: Worship is Covenantal in Nature

A covenant is a relationship built on a promise.

Building Block 4: Worship is Corporate in Nature  
Worship is offered in community with our sisters and brothers.

Building Block 5: Worship is Trinitarian in Nature  
God's own triune relationship is the model for worship.

Building Block 6: Worship is a Transformational Journey  
Worship forms us. We are changed as a result of worship.

*Lex orandi, lex credendi, est*  
(as we pray, so we believe)

### **Practical Applications**

If worship is grounded in God, then....

If worship is centered in Jesus Christ, then...

If worship consists of revelation/response, then...

If worship is covenantal, then...

If worship is corporate, then...

If worship is Trinitarian, then...

If worship is transformational, then...