

In my opinion, the great need of the moment is that light-headed superficial religious be struck down with a vision of God bright and lifted up, with His train filling the temple. The holy act of worship seems to have passed away like the shadows of glory from the tabernacle. As a result, we are left to our own devices and forced to make up the lack of spontaneous worship by bringing in countless cheap and lowly activities to hold the attention of the church people.

A.W. Tozer

## DIRECTIONS AND DESIRES

We will continue with one common worship service format, "that with one accord [we] may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:6).

Our worship life will have a "defining center," with significant range on either side of that center, resulting in a broader worship life than people previously may have comfortably called "home."

Our main lead worshiper will be characterized by spiritual maturity and depth, sensitivity to God's leading during worship, a pastor's heart, and breadth of musical skills. His authentic worship will be contagious to the congregation as he joyously leads us into God's presence.

We will emphasize spiritual leadership rather than performance in all "up-front" activities, as we encourage spiritually gifted people to minister within their range of ability rather than perform.

We will design worship services mainly for the benefit of believers, as we express corporately our passion for the supremacy of God, reflecting it so clearly and joyously that unbelievers who are present may also be awakened and give Him glory.

We recommend obtaining a high quality of digital synthesizer, capable of reproducing a broad range of instrumentation to complement and broaden the range of musical styles available.

We will encourage greater freedom in worship that is God-honoring and authentic, allowing for Biblically appropriate responses to God's multifaceted glory as we linger for extended periods in His presence.

We will encourage increased lay participation in the Sunday service by spiritually gifted people.

We will encourage diversity in worship leadership that reflects the diversity of our congregation and our international culture.

We anticipate that a variety of musical groups (Choirs, worship teams, vocal and instrumental ensembles, etc.) will be used to lead in worship on Sunday.

This approach to worship is dependent on guidelines produced by Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota [www.DesiringGod.org](http://www.DesiringGod.org) • [www.bbcmpls.org](http://www.bbcmpls.org) and First Evangelical Church in Memphis, Tennessee [www.firstevan.org](http://www.firstevan.org)

## MUNICH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

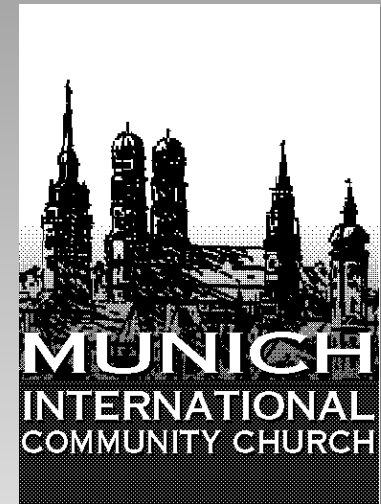
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 4:00 PM**

MOZARTSTRASSE 12 · CENTRAL MUNICH  
IN THE FREIE EVANGELISCHE GEMEINDE  
U3/U6 GOETHEPLATZ

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# SUNDAY WORSHIP IN MICC

GLORIFYING CHRIST  
DECLARING HIS PRAISE  
PRIZING HIS WORD



**C**orporate worship is a crucial defining activity for the Body of Christ. As God's people, we come together to join hearts and voices in praise to God for His greatness and in thanks for His goodness. Many Christian activities can be done alone or in small groups; but corporate worship by its very nature must involve the gathered local church.

Worship is a response to God for who He is and for what He has done for us in Jesus Christ. In Christian worship, the focus should not be on what we get (good feelings, peace, fellowship—though these may be perfectly legitimate by-products), neither is the focus primarily on what we give. The primary focus in worship is on the person of God—who He is and what He has done; our response in worship is secondary, and the benefits flow from God as we arrange our lives in worship under his authority and provision. We are called to adore and pay homage to God Almighty, and are privileged to be invited to do so: worship is not a means to an end, but an end in itself—indeed, the highest of all ends.

## **GOD CENTERED**

Because we value a public worship form that communicates the supremacy of God in all of life, it will focus on God. The form may vary from week to week as long as God remains glorified, honored, and pleased with our worship. It will encourage an expectancy and eagerness for God to draw near to us in reviving and renewing power.

## **WORD SATURATED**

Because we value fervent, Biblical, Spirit-anointed, God-exalting, personally-helpful preaching, we will pray that God's Word continues to run and be glorified among us as greatly in the future as it has in the past, as all aspects of worship are shaped and permeated by the Word of God.

## **REVERENT WORSHIP**

Properly valuing God centered and Word saturated worship draws out a reverent response from God's people. In worship we come into God's presence with due reverence (Psalm 96:9). There is plenty of room in worship for joyful and exuberant expression—but only as an appropriate response to a holy God. Worship is not entertainment. Its primary goal is not to produce warm feelings in the participants, but to glorify God in all of His majesty. God Himself is in our midst.

## **BALANCED: CONTEMPORARY AND HISTORIC**

Because we value the importance of old and new, historic and current, we will pray that "the Holy Spirit may lead us into ways of worship that are continuous with the historic witness of worship given to the church throughout its history in the world, and at the same time He may lead us into the discovery of new forms and patterns that meet the needs of the people of our day" (Robert Webber, *Worship Old and New*). We will continue to be a people that cherishes all the richness and freshness that comes from God. Hymns and choruses, traditional anthems and ballads all find a place in our services. We learn as God's people to exercise a gracious spirit in accepting a wider spectrum of musical idioms than we may individually prefer, for the sake of the common good of God's people.

## **BALANCED: EMOTIONAL AND THOUGHTFUL**

Because we value the importance of both head and heart in our worship experience, we will continue to fill our minds with Biblical thinking about God, others, ourselves, and life, while at the same time putting renewed and greater emphasis on giving expression to our heart's affections for God during worship.

## **BALANCED: THEMATIC WORSHIP**

The above balances may be bonded more securely through an emphasis on thematic worship. A single theme governs the selection of all music and readings used, which are then woven together to develop the theme. This theme may be an attribute of God (love, holiness, etc.), a particular aspect of worship (prayer, praise, etc.), a theological concept (thirsting for God, access to God through Christ), or a special biblical aspect of redemptive truth (the Lamb of God, the Cross). Thematic worship helps to deepen worship by allowing one to focus attention and to respond more specifically

## **PRIZING GOD HIGHLY**

Because we value going hard after God as an all-satisfying end in Himself, we will increasingly plan our worship service for greater opportunities to linger in the presence of the Lord. He is the treasure, the pearl of great price, and we will come with an earnestness and wholeheartedness on our part that desires God more than anything.

## **AUTHENTICITY TRANSPARENCY & VULNERABILITY**

Because we value authenticity and transparency in communicating in large and small group settings, we will strive for genuineness when in groups or by ourselves. Whether rehearsed or spontaneous, we will strive to be real before God and each other. Because we value vulnerability with our imperfections that encourage candor, not concealment, we will minister in the strength that God supplies as we are sustained by His grace, acknowledging that our treasure is in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is not our own. We will confess public sin publicly and private sin privately, and admit openly our imperfections. We will not continue in public ministry while flagrant sin holds sway in our lives.

## **SINGING**

Because we value being a singing people with growing appreciation for diverse expressions of love for God, we will use as many musical styles and forms as are helpful in order to worship and respond to God appropriately. We will encourage whole-hearted participation by the entire congregation in all parts of the worship service, as the defining sound of worship becomes the singing voices of all God's people praising Him.

## **PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP**

Worship is an activity for all of God's people. It is not intended to be a spectator sport! One of the most precious truths of the Christian faith is the free access which all believers have into the presence of God; and in corporate worship all are called and invited to respond to the Almighty with their hearts and with their voices. Participatory worship is a practical outworking of the priesthood of all believers (Rev. 1:6). Our musicians and the lead worshiper serve as prompters to prepare, and invite, and support the most important musical ensemble in our church—the congregation! (Psalm 79:13)

## **SPONTANEITY**

Because we value a place for spontaneity and lay ministry to the body, we will cultivate a sense of waiting on the Holy Spirit in worship. We will make room for God to act on Sunday by giving opportunities for spontaneous ministry by spiritually gifted people.

## **STYLE**

Because we value increasing in a humble willingness to support others whose tastes are different than ours, we will put understanding above accusation, forbearance above faultfinding, and Biblical unity above the demand for uniformity. We will create opportunities for God's reality to be conveyed more powerfully by learning to affirm the forms and styles that edify our brothers and sisters, without violating their consciences. Our relationships of love for each other will lead us to patiently support and rejoice with those who appreciate other styles, believing that God is able to meet us in the context of any Christ-exalting worship style.

## **UNDISTRACTING EXCELLENCE**

Because we value growing in appreciation of both fine and folk elements in worship, we will strive to affirm the strengths and avoid the weaknesses inherent in both forms. We will worship within the range of gifts that God bestows on us, never compromising spiritual qualifications for aesthetic considerations, as we pursue undistracting excellence in spiritual leadership.

## **VISIBLE AND EXPRESSIVE LOVE**

Because we value a determination to welcome people different from ourselves for the sake of Christ, we will continue to embrace God's call for visible and tangible expressions of love toward each other and our neighbors, providing opportunities before, during and after the service to reach out and minister to those God would have us touch.

## **DIVERSITY AND PASSION FOR GOD**

Because we value the diversity of our international cultural setting, we will seek ways to communicate and worship that allow for a significant range of cultural variety in those whose worship is driven by a passion for the supremacy of God in all things.