

LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

MUSIC MINISTRY POLICY

Music is a gift from God and is to be used for His glory. Music can be used to convey praise, thanksgiving, and repentance. As a community of God's people it is a great privilege to come together in corporate praise and worship of our God. It is also an opportunity to display our unity and love for one another in Christ Jesus as we join with one voice to proclaim His glorious works, mercy and love for His people. At Living Truth Christian Fellowship, our desire is that the songs that are sung are **faithful to the Scripture, doctrinally sound, exalt our LORD**, and are ultimately **God-centered**.

PURPOSE

The music ministry at Living Truth Christian Fellowship has two primary purposes: (1) the exaltation of God and (2) the encouragement of God's people. In the Heavenly scene the saints of God sing, "Worthy are you, our LORD and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created" (Rev. 4:11). God is worthy of our worship and the Bible is filled with the **command** to "praise the LORD". In addition to exalting the LORD in song, the people of God are to encourage one another (Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16). Our music ministry will strive to achieve this by accompanying God's people with music based on the following principles and practices.

PRINCIPLES

The principles that will guide our approach and music selections are listed as follows:

Biblical

The songs we sing will be Biblical in their message. The songs may be Psalms, other Bible passages put to music, or simply words that are faithful to the Scripture. In singing music that is Biblical, we are striving to sing songs that are theologically sound, Biblically based, and honoring to the LORD.

Congregational

When we gather as a church to sing, we desire for this to be something all participate in. We sing songs during the church services to exalt God, but also to encourage the church (cf. Eph. 5:19). Our goal is to create times of corporate and congregational praise for the Glory of God alone. We believe that public praise is the natural overflow of private devotion. If you are living a life of worship, praise will be the natural overflow in corporate church gatherings.

Multigenerational

Though we primarily do a "Contemporary style" of Christian music, the songs that have exalted God and encouraged believers are not limited to a single generation. Our music will **not** be restricted to only contemporary music. We want to sing, value, and benefit from the best of Christian music from the centuries.

Diverse

Worship music will convey a variety of emotions and expressions depending on the song and occasion. The Bible makes mention of praising the LORD with instruments, so we think it right to make use of a variety of instruments incorporated into our worship to praise the LORD in line with the previous principles. The Bible sanctions the use of a variety of instruments in public worship (Psalm 33:2-3, 71:72, Eph. 5:19). Instruments can be used for the glory of God and it is appropriate for some styles of music to use different instruments to convey the differing expressions of praising, preparation, and pondering. The use of the varying instruments in public worship is to offer a joyful sound that is to sing songs that are Biblical congregational, multigenerational, and diverse to the glory of God.

PRACTICE

It is our desire to honor the LORD in worshipping Him through music and song. So as to guard from the extremes of being legalistic or loose, the following section discusses our approach to songs and instruments in public worship.

The Songs We Select

Authority for the selection of songs is given to the Pastor over the Music Ministry. When it comes to songs sung in public worship at Living Truth Christian Fellowship, it is understood that there will be a growing and expanding list of songs as new songs are written and released over time. With thousands of Christian artists and churches writing songs regularly, at any one time, we may select a song from another church or artist; however, Living Truth Christian Fellowship is not necessarily condoning every practice or belief of these churches or individual artists. Living Truth Christian Fellowship will be purposeful to examine each individual song to make sure that the lyrical content is theologically sound, Biblically based, and honoring to God.

Approved by the Elders October 2022