

## What Happens in Public Worship

Public worship at Central Presbyterian Church is a means by which God renews and strengthens his deep bond (covenant) with his people. Therefore, the form or structure of the service is a back-and-forth exchange of friendship. The primary actions in the service are God's actions by which he serves us, and our actions in worship are an active response to God's movement toward us and his gifts to us. The following outline explains how the elements of worship follow this ancient, biblical rhythm of God's relationship with us.

<b>GOD GATHERS US</b>	<b>God calls us to worship</b>	God gathers and summons us before his heavenly throne for a special audience with him.
	<b>We praise God</b>	We respond to God's call by honoring his greatness in song.
	<b>We pray for God to help us worship</b>	We ask the Lord to give us the ability to respond to him in worship by the supernatural power of his Holy Spirit.
<b>GOD CLEANSES US</b>	<b>God calls us to confess our sin</b>	God summons us to confess our sins to him and offers us his promises of mercy.
	<b>We confess our sin</b>	We turn away from our sin, confess it to God, and ask for his forgiveness.
	<b>God declares our forgiveness</b>	God responds to our confession by forgiving our sins.
	<b>We praise God</b>	Having been assured of God's favor, we offer thanks and praise for salvation from sin and access to God in Jesus Christ.
	<b>We greet one another with the peace of Christ</b>	Having been welcomed in love and peace by God, we welcome one another as an expression of our love and unity.

<b>GOD INSTRUCTS US THROUGH HIS WORD</b>	<b>We pray for God to help us receive his word</b>	We sing a prayer that asks God to enable us to understand and respond rightly to his word.
	<b>God instructs us in scripture reading</b>	God speaks to us through the Bible to instruct, encourage, correct, comfort, exhort, and equip us.
	<b>God instructs us in preaching</b>	God speaks to us to explain what his word means and how to respond to him with loving obedience in our daily lives.
<b>WE OFFER OURSELVES TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD</b>	<b>We offer ourselves in gifts and song</b>	We respond to God's word by offering ourselves to God with renewed love and commitment both in song and in gifts of money to support the God's mission in the church and the world.
	<b>We offer our prayers for the church and the world</b>  <b>(The Lord's Prayer)</b>	We respond to God's word by speaking back to him, which puts the sermon into action by asking him to accomplish his will in us and in the church and the world.  We conclude our prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, which is a fitting summary of the mission of God's kingdom.
<b>GOD FEEDS US AT HIS TABLE</b>	<b>God feeds us at his table</b>  <b>(We thank and praise God)</b>	Jesus serves us a meal at his table, which is a joyful victory feast celebrating Jesus' triumph over sin, Satan, and death through his death and resurrection. In the meal, God gives us the life of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to unite us with him and with one another in peace and friendship. (During and/or after the meal, we sing to thanks and praise God for all the ways that he has served us in the liturgy.)
<b>GOD SENDS US</b>	<b>God blesses us and sends us out</b>	God sends us out into the world with his blessing to serve the mission of his kingdom.

