



What we Value in Worship

Worship is our life's response to the love and grace of God. In worship, we recognize God's goodness and offer our whole selves in thanksgiving. For this reason, we value [gathering regularly](#) as a community to encounter and renew our relationship God. We desire that our worship gatherings be God-centered, participatory, and inclusive of all generations. We seek to offer our best and most creative gifts to celebrate and tell God's story through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching, sacrament, offerings, and the arts. We affirm the richness and rhythms of the Christian tradition while seeking to encourage creativity and fresh expressions of worship. Our "style" is what we like to call "casual, yet reverent."



The Pattern of our Worship

Throughout the year, our worship generally follows the Christian calendar, which is a way of ordering the seasons of the year around telling the story of Jesus. Each week, we enter into that story and each Sunday has a general pattern with variations along the way.

Gathering

Worship is not about us! It's all about God. Through songs, prayers, responses, and other creative elements, we acknowledge that God has called us from various locations and walks of life to become one community. We practice what is called "the passing of the peace." As we greet one another during the peace, we repeat the words Jesus said to his own followers: "Peace be with you." We also exchange personal greetings. The peace serves as a visible reminder that we are not just a group of individuals but a community that gives and receives grace to one another. We worship God for who God is and what God has done in Jesus Christ. As we glimpse God's holiness, we see and confess our own needs. Assured of God's grace, we respond in thanksgiving and open our hearts and minds to hear what God wants to say to us through the word.

Word

We hear the Good News spoken as passages from the Scriptures (both the Old Testament and the New Testament) are read or creatively communicated. Then, a pastor will usually offer a [sermon/teaching](#) and commentary on the text(s) and the theme(s) raised by the readings. We respond to what God is saying to us through prayers for ourselves and others, confessing our faith in the [creeds](#), and may also occasionally respond through group discussion, the arts, or other creative means.

Thanksgiving

Having heard the word of God, we respond with thanksgiving. We celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ and remember his death and resurrection as we break bread and drink the cup during Communion, or the Lord's Supper. All those who seek to turn from sin and follow Jesus Christ and receive his grace are invited to participate in the Lord's Table. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we celebrate this symbolic meal each time we come together for worship, believing that Christ is present to strengthen us with grace by the Holy Spirit so that we might grow in love for God, each other, and the world. When the invitation to receive communion is given, you may come forward, take a piece of bread (we use gluten free), dip it in the cup, consume it, and then return to your seat or feel free to pray at our prayer space. If you choose not to receive communion, you are free to remain in your seat, come forward to receive a prayer of blessing or you may choose to pray in our prayer space. We also bring our own monetary tithes and offerings to be given for the work of the church and its mission both in Portland and around the globe. You may drop your offering in the baskets on the sides of the room at any time in the service. You may also give online at www.edenpdx.org/give.

Sending

We don't *leave* our worship services. In fact, our worship isn't ending. It's just beginning! We are *sent* by God from this encounter as changed people to now become agents of hope in our world. Our final acts of worship together often include a benediction. The benediction is a blessing upon us as we leave the gathering to serve Christ and others. After the benediction, feel free to grab a coffee and hang out. Take a moment to visit the connect table to learn more about participating in our community. We invite you to complete a [Connect Card](#), which will help us better welcome you!