

Worship Policy

Crozet United Methodist Church

To worship God is a biblical mandate: “You shall worship the LORD your God” (Exodus 23:25 NRS), and we understand that we are called to do this faithfully, intentionally, and with all due reverence. Crozet United Methodist Church holds all worship offerings in accordance with *The Book of Discipline* and the standards put forth in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. In the United Methodist Church, worship falls under the purview of the Senior Pastor, and carried out under the authority of the presiding Elder, whether that be the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, or other approved clergy. All worship plans and proposals are to be submitted to the Senior Pastor, and subject to the Senior Pastor’s approval to ensure the highest quality standards, appropriateness, the maintaining of doctrinal standards, and theological consistency.

Worship Ethos:

- Crozet United Methodist Church takes seriously the call to strive for excellence in worship. All worship should reflect the same high standards, professional quality, and reverence.
- Inclusivity is a hallmark of our worship. All ages, genders, races, membership status, etc. are welcome and invited into the fullness of worship. No one shall be excluded or omitted by language or action. Attention should be given to intentionally engage all people, especially children.
- Worshipers at Crozet United Methodist Church are invited and encouraged to express themselves in worship as they see fit and respond to the movement and prompting of the Holy Spirit. This may manifest itself in movement, vocal response, etc., and should not be censured or discouraged unless doctrinally or theologically inappropriate or harmful.
- All elements of worship should be harmonious and designed to flow as seamlessly as possible. Under no circumstances should sung lyrics undermine the theology and message of the sermon. Prayers should be inclusive and offered in the third person, communal tense. Personal prayers are inappropriate.

Worship Rubric (from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, page 15):

- **Entrance**
 - Gathering in Jesus’ name with greetings, music and song, prayer, and praise.
- **Proclamation of the Word & Response**
 - Scriptures opened by reading, preaching, witnessing, music, or other arts and media.
 - Interspersed may be psalms, anthems, and hymns.
 - Responses to God’s Word include acts of commitment and faith with offerings of concern, prayers, gifts, and service for the world and for one another.
- **Thanksgiving & Communion**
 - In worship with Communion, the acts of Jesus are recounted and reenacted.
 - In worship without Communion, thanks are given for God’s mighty acts in Jesus Christ.
- **Sending Forth**
 - The congregation is sent into ministry with the Lord’s blessing.

Worship Standards:

- Nature-
 - Faithfulness to Methodist theology, and Trinitarian in nature.
 - Consistency in form with the established Worship Rubric.
 - Scripture must be read, and expounded upon either by sermon, testimony, liturgical drama, etc., and by clergy or approved laity. The Bible text should not be a paraphrase, and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is the preferred translation to use, as well as provided in the pew Bible for the congregation.
 - All spoken words, i.e. prayers, sermons, testimonies, etc., must be made in the language of the congregation: English.
 - Profane or vulgar language is prohibited.
 - Children are always welcomed, and to be expected to participate. Worship should be designed to be inclusive of all ages.
 - All sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) are presided over by the Senior Pastor or other authorized clergy, and open to all.
- Location-
 - All worship takes place in the Sanctuary, which is consecrated holy space where the presence of God, the Father, dwells always, and should be respected as such.
 - Some furniture in the Chancel is consecrated and thus holy. No furniture shall be moved without approval from the Senior Pastor. The altar should not be moved at all. The altar is for placing offerings for God, not to be used as a table. The Lord's Table is not to be used for any purpose other than Holy Communion, and nothing should be placed upon it.
 - Worship is led from the Chancel (the area from the altar rail to the back of the Sanctuary) for best visibility, audio amplification, and appropriateness.
- Music-
 - Live music, not prerecorded, is offered.
 - Worship is not a performance, and all music is an offering for the glory of God.
- Offering & Gifts-
 - Worship is not to be used for fundraising purposes. Offerings are taken up for the honor and glory of God, and used for the Annual Budget, unless otherwise stipulated and approved by the Finance Committee.
 - Spontaneous Love Offerings for individuals and groups are not allowed.

Worship Structure:

- 9:30 AM, Sunday Morning (60 minutes) – Contemporary Worship

The Contemporary Worship offering is designed to reflect the emphasis on Modern Christian music to draw the congregation into a worshipful state before the Proclamation of the Word, normally a sermon. Extemporaneous prayer is preferred, and a casual atmosphere is generally cultivated, so a formal, structured liturgy is omitted.

The music is typically created live by the Praise Band (guitar, bass, drums, and keyboard), and vocals provided by the Praise singers. Lyrics are provided for the

congregation via slides on the screens. Clergy do not wear liturgical vestments, i.e. robes, stoles, etc. Speakers wear head mics or use hand mics.

- 11:00 AM, Sunday Morning (60 Minutes) – Traditional Worship

The Traditional Worship offering utilizes the classical form with liturgical elements to lead the congregation into worship and guide them along the way. Scripture is read from the pulpit, and prayers are more structured. Traditional liturgical elements are featured and valued.

Sung music is found in *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* songbook, both of which are found in the pew racks. Lyrics may also be projected via slides on the screens. Typical instrumentation includes organ and piano. Special instrumentalists are featured when appropriate. The Chancel Choir leads vocals. Bulletins are provided. Clergy wear liturgical vestments, i.e. robes, stoles, etc. Speakers wear head mics or use hand mics.

Worship Technology:

Technology is a gift and a blessing to enhance worship, not the foundation upon which it is built. All technology has limits, apt to fail at inopportune moments, and able to become an impediment to worship. Therefore, all worship should not rely solely upon technology to occur. In the event of equipment failure, power outage, or other event which renders technology inoperable, worship is expected to continue to completion, and fulfill the worship rubric appropriately, with modification as necessary.

Crozet United Methodist Church has invested significant time and resources into our technological framework and equipment. No equipment should be removed from the premises without approval from the Trustees. A *Crozet UMC Property Registration/Assignment Form* may be required as well. Only those who have been trained specifically on the church's audio and visual equipment are authorized to operate the equipment.