

## **Midland Reformed Church**

### **Vision for Worship**

#### Worship at Midland Reformed Church is...

##### Gospel Centered

We are gathered together to tell and retell the story of our salvation through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

- Implications:
  - God's written word takes priority as this is God's ordinary means of communicating the way of salvation to his people.
  - Ecumenical creeds and Reformed confessions are used as aides to keep us focused on the gospel message.
  - We follow the church calendar as it emphasizes the major events of Christ's life.
  - We follow a liturgy where the story of salvation is told in the shape of the service itself (gathering, receiving God's word, responding to God's word, sending into the world).

##### Covenantal

We are gathered together to meet with and respond to the God who initiates and sustains relationship with his people.

- Implications:
  - We engage with God in a dialogue where God calls and his people respond.
  - With joy, we celebrate who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus Christ.
  - We recognize sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) as signs and seals of God's covenant of grace with his people.

##### Corporate

We are gathered together from diverse backgrounds to worship God as one body.

- Implications:
  - All members of the body are participants in worship.
  - We put the needs and preferences of others above our own.
  - We welcome people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
  - We come with hearts prepared to worship.

##### Transformative

We are gathered together to be shaped more into the image of Christ so that our lives will impact the world around us.

- Implications:
  - We come in a spirit of authenticity, vulnerability, and willingness, inviting the Lord to change us.
  - We engage with topics and practices that equip us as disciples for our mission in the world.
  - We engage the whole range of human emotions in creative, thoughtful ways.

## A Note on Music:

Song is an important way that we express our faith when we gather for corporate worship. When we sing, we give voice to God's story of salvation and its impact on us. Considering this, our music:

- Invites our response to God's grace to us in Jesus Christ.
- Is Reformed in its theology.
- Includes songs that are "old" and "new" in order to be edifying to the worshipers at MRC.
- Is not determined by a formula. Songs are selected based on their ability to capture the theme of the worship service and their placement in the order of worship.
- Is led by people from our congregation who are willing to share their musical talents.