

When a group of worshipers met to discuss the 9:00 service, we agreed that there is no need to make major changes. However, we were interested in several "tweaks" that we hope will enhance our worship experience in the 9:00 hour and build community among those who worship with us. To begin with, we have already revised our summary descriptions of our Sunday morning worship services in order to reflect the character and experience of each service both positively and accurately for our potential guests. Then, we will spend the summer doing a few "experiments":

MOVING CLOSER TOGETHER

We will move toward one another. The Pastors will celebrate Holy Communion at a table located on the floor in front of the Chancel; we will bring our musicians slightly forward; and we will request that the congregation sit only in the front 2/3 of the Sanctuary. Our hope is to enhance the feeling of being in community—hearing one another as we sing, read, and pray together.

KNOWING EACH OTHER'S NAMES

In order to further develop these community relationships, we will invite the congregation to make a name tag each week, so we can get to know one another's names (or remember the ones you forgot!).

RECRUITING LEADERS

We are recruiting helpers to make the service happen. We need you to sign up to be a greeter or an usher or to set up Holy Communion one Sunday per month. All you need is a willingness to serve and we will teach you everything else you need to know! Please sign up by indicating your interest on your Connections Card today.

These experiments will begin on May 27. After two months, we will solicit feedback about the experiments and decide whether to continue them beyond our summer series or to keep tweaking! I greatly appreciate all that you do to build this community of faith at FUMC, and I look forward to continuing to grow in faith as we worship God together!

Pastor Taylor

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

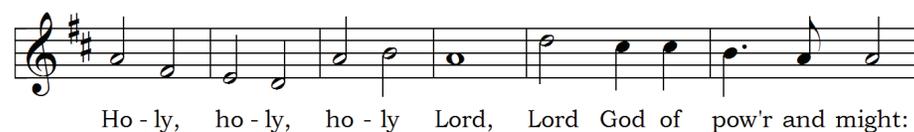
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

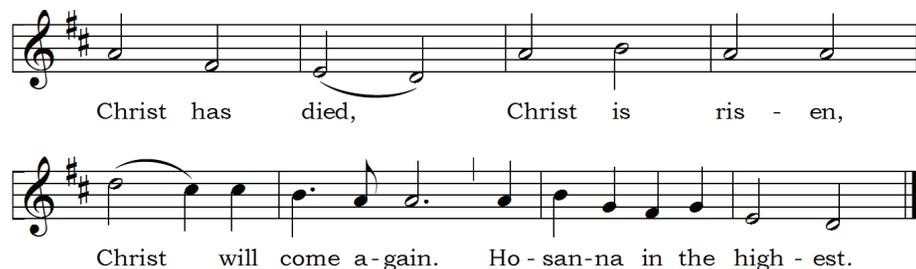
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets,
who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Please be seated. The pastor continues leading the prayer, recalling the acts of Christ.

...And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Pastor continues leading the prayer, asking God to pour out God's Holy Spirit on us and this meal.

...Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.



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First WORD



From Pastor Taylor Fuerst

Dear Church,

Worship is a key to our life together at FUMC. In worship, we directly live out our mission to build a community where all people are invited to know God's love and sent to join God in transforming the world.

Many thanks to each of you who provided feedback regarding our 9:00 worship service through our recent survey. After reviewing the surveys and engaging in conversation with those who indicated further interest on their survey, I would like to share with you a few things that we learned and a few ideas we are excited to try in the coming weeks.

Here are a few things we learned:

FLEXIBILITY OF THE TWO SERVICES APPRECIATED

Many respondents lifted up appreciation that FUMC offers two services on Sunday morning with the same preaching and similar basic format. You like having scheduling options.

INTIMATE GATHERING PREFERRED

Many who filled out the survey prefer the intimate, less-formal setting that our 9:00 service offers, as well as the variety of music from week to week.

WEEKLY COMMUNION VALUED

Most respondents appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion each week.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT NEEDED

Many indicated that our Sanctuary space is a challenge to fostering community in this worship service.