

Worship at Trinity

“Historically rooted but culturally aware”

How would you describe worship at Trinity? I heard a phrase recently that I think describes it very well: “historically rooted but culturally aware”. It is the combining of the *historical* and the *modern* at every level of worship to create maximum opportunities for engaging worshippers with the presence of God. There are three main pillars to this model: **structure**, **concept**, and **style/content**.

Structure: a commitment to the historic, Christian fourfold order of worship (Gathering, Word, Table, Sending)

Concept: a commitment to the celebrative nature of worship based upon the redemptive acts of God (worship that focuses solely on Christ and what He has done for us)

Style & Content: a commitment to a broad range of musical and liturgical content and styles (forming an expression of the whole church both past and present)

Worship at Trinity...

- embraces the historical in that it values those worship practices that have found expression in twenty-one centuries of Christian worship.
- also embraces the contemporary in that it values the fresh expression of worship elements appropriate for every age and culture.

What worship at Trinity is not:

- it is not ONE of the above pillars, but ALL of them together
- it is not a compromise in order to keep people happy. Rather, it is a model of worship that helps us keep focused on what worship is supposed to be: a scripturally-founded celebration of the gifts God has and continues to give us.
- it is not “blended worship”, where it focuses on the blending of styles (i.e. ‘traditional’ and ‘contemporary’, or the ‘old’ and the ‘new’) and can sometimes be done poorly, but instead focuses on the styles and content best suited to enhance the structure and concept of the worship itself...creating opportunities for worshippers of every age and faith walk who come through our doors to be able to hear the Gospel.

This concept is nothing new. Luther was all about the historically rooted (Sola Scriptura) but culturally aware (Worship in the vernacular and congregational singing!) worship model. In fact, this model is rooted in Old and New Testament worship practices. It is something Christians have been doing for years! But why does this model of worship feel so natural at Trinity? Is it because we are Lutheran? I would like to argue that it is bigger than that. I believe that as a church, we have inherently and subconsciously realized that unity is better than division. We do not want to get too tied up with all of the personal issues that come up with style (although style is important!), but instead we would rather focus on being united, in love, as a Christian family. More specifically, the Trinity family. A family who is historically rooted...and culturally aware.