



In terms of worship style, another component of corporate worship that sets us apart is how we think about music and instrumentation. For each psalm, hymn or spiritual song that we sing, and we do actually sing the psalms, we're asking a number of questions. 1) Are the words Biblically faithful and Biblically rich? This eliminates many songs that may be musically resonant to a particular generation, but not as spiritually nourishing and edifying as they could be. 2) Does the arrangement lead to congregational singing? This filters many songs that are great to listen to but, because they lend themselves to being performed, they usually don't lend themselves to congregational singing. 3) Does the instrumentation fit the text? Sometimes there's nothing better than a piano. Sometimes, when you want to sustain a note, there's nothing better than an organ. Sometimes a guitar or drum kit add just the right element of levity or rhythm to facilitate congregational singing. Our instrumentation is as varied as we think will help us better sing the songs we chose.

Why do we insist on singing the best of contemporary and the best of traditional psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Why not pick a style? In a word: love. Out of love for our older saints, so long as we can answer those 3 questions (above) with "yes," then we will sing songs that are precious to them. Out of love for our younger saints, so long as we can answer those 3 questions with "yes," then we will sing songs that are precious to them. We sing contemporary and traditional out of love for every generation, and in a desire to have a service that brings every generation together.

In terms of preaching style, the pastor preaches from a historical pattern called *consecutive expository* and deviates occasionally for a *topical expository* series that either fits the church calendar best (like in Advent or Easter) or meets a particular need.

"Consecutive expository" means that we preach through texts of Scripture from beginning to end and that the main point of the passage is the main point of the message. There are a number of advantages to this practice. 1) Since all of God's Word is profitable, God's people benefit from having all of it read and preached. 2) This keeps pastors and parishioners alike from resting on hobby horses, or favorite themes and verses at the expense of the whole counsel of God. 3) This keeps pastors and parishioners alike from avoiding topics that they might be tempted to avoid. 4) This fits with the texts themselves which are meant to be read and understood in context.

"Topical expository" means that we still exposit or 'unpack and explain' a passage of Scripture, but that the sermon will center on a particular theme.