



# brentwood hills

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

### **Worship at Brentwood Hills**

The body of Christ at Brentwood Hills exists for the purpose of bringing glory and honor to our Heavenly Father, obeying His will by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, loving, edifying, and ministering to those in need. An important piece of our mission involves public worship assemblies. In these assemblies, adhering unwaveringly to the inerrant, inspired Word of God, we gather to pray,<sup>1</sup> to sing songs of praise,<sup>2</sup> for public reading of God's Word,<sup>3</sup> to commune with God and with one another as we observe the Lord's Supper,<sup>4</sup> and to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup>

Brentwood Hills is a large and diverse congregation of disciples of Jesus Christ, with a wide range of backgrounds that include such differences as age, race, religious practice, finances, education and politics. Just as the one body has many different members, we must look beyond our individual differences to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. This unity of His children with one another and with His Father was the "joy that was set before Him" as our Lord Jesus went to the cross.<sup>6</sup> Since our unity was of such importance to Jesus Christ, we must also strive for unity as we worship God in spirit and in truth.<sup>7</sup>

Our worship should be characterized by a spirit of selflessness.<sup>8</sup> Rather than focusing on what edifies us, personally, we must "fix our eyes on Jesus" and "find out what pleases the Lord."<sup>9</sup> We endeavor to focus our full attention upon Jehovah and thereby create an experience so deeply gratifying that we will become lost in wonder, love, and praise. In spirit and in truth, worship is the result of a heart drawn close to the Father, focused intently on what pleases Him.<sup>10</sup> We must each determine in our hearts individually to not allow division among us, but instead to be perfectly joined together in one mind and thought.<sup>11</sup> Our aim is to be humble, gentle, and patient with one another as we worship together in love.<sup>12</sup>

Brentwood Hills Church of Christ must be a church for our time, but we must not allow the trends of our culture to dictate our worship practice. True worship does not depend on the use of contemporary forms, methods, props or aids, but results from our love, gratitude, adoration, honor and praise for our creator and our savior, Jesus Christ.<sup>13</sup> Our aim is to be so pleasing to the Father at all times that He could say about us as He did about Jesus, "These are my children in whom I am well-pleased."

Our worship assemblies are well planned and coordinated. The Word of God is preached with power in a manner that uplifts and challenges, and the Lord's invitation is extended consistently with specificity and clarity. Worship is courteous, considerate and personally convicting.<sup>14</sup>

When we assemble to bow low before the Father we endeavor, individually and collectively, to make a joyful noise unto the Lord offering to Him our utmost expression of reverence, adoration, and praise. We want worshipers to feel the freedom to express their praise and adoration for God in spirit and truth consistent with their personality and understanding of Scripture. We understand that some Christians are by nature quiet and reflective in worship while others are animated and outwardly expressive. Each individual has developed a way of expressing worship through tradition, experience and personality. Some sit with folded hands and bowed heads and hearts, while others desire to clap and raise holy hands. Neither group is scripturally right or wrong; they are just different. Out of love and respect for one another, we must each focus on our own worship and avoid judging the worship of our fellow Christians.<sup>15</sup>

Our *a cappella* singing results from hearts filled with gratitude to the Father and results in edification of one another.<sup>16</sup> We urge our members to strive to appreciate both contemporary songs and classic hymns that help us all express adoration of the Father, Son and Spirit. Those who lead in worship do not try to call attention to themselves, and our worship should have no hint of performance or entertainment.

Beyond our congregational worship services, each member should strive daily to offer his or her body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual act of worship.<sup>17</sup> We pray that each of us is transformed more and more into the image of the Son, receiving constant strength from multiple deep relationships in the body of Christ. We want to help our members be equipped and encouraged to use their talents for the work God prepared them to do,<sup>18</sup> always fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.<sup>19</sup>

Brentwood Hills Elders

June 24, 2012

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(Scripture references from New International Version 1984)

<sup>1</sup>**Lk. 11:1-4.** One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup> He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’”

**Acts 2:42.** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**1 Tim. 2:8.** I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

<sup>2</sup>**Eph. 5:18b-19.** be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

**Col. 3:16.** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

<sup>3</sup>**1 Tim. 4:13.** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

<sup>4</sup>**Lk. 22:19.** And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

**1 Cor. 11:23-26.** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”<sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Acts 2:42.** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>5</sup>**1 Tim. 4:13.** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

**Acts 2:42.** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>6</sup>**Heb. 12:1b-2.** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>7</sup>**John 17:11b & 20-21.** <sup>11</sup>Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one... <sup>20</sup>My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

<sup>8</sup>**Phil. 2:3-7.** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

**Phil. 3:7-11.** But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>9</sup>**Heb. 12:1.** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**Eph. 5:8-10.** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>**John 4:23-24.** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

**Mt. 15:8-9.** ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.””

**Rom. 12:1-2.** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>11</sup>**1 Cor. 1:10.** I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

<sup>12</sup>**Eph. 4:2.** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

<sup>13</sup>**2 Cor. 8:9.** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**John 4:23-24.** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

<sup>14</sup>**1 Cor. 14:40.** But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

<sup>15</sup>**Eph. 5:21.** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>16</sup>**Eph. 5:18b-19.** be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

**Col. 3:16.** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

**Heb. 13:18.** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name.

<sup>17</sup>**Rom 12:1-2.** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>18</sup>**Eph 2:10.** For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

<sup>19</sup>**Heb. 12:1b-2.** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.