



Common Ground Midtown Worship Ministry

As a part of the larger Common Ground Midtown community, our worship team seeks to embody the mission and values discerned and set forth by our leaders and community members.

Our mission is to call people of all ages to be formed in the image of Jesus, so we can love our neighbors in Indianapolis and around the world. **Our vision** is to join with God in the reconciliation of all things with the sacrificial love of Jesus.

We believe the purpose of worship is to take on an intentional posture of seeing and being seen by God (e.g. noticing and engaging with God), who is Love, by embracing his love for us and giving love back to him and to our neighbors through our worship (1 John 4:16).

Common Ground Midtown's worship ministry exists to **create space for the body of Christ to engage in meaningful and honest praise and worship for the purpose of individual and corporate adoration, reflection, and response.**

We live this out by stepping more and more into our CGCC - Midtown values.

CG Midtown Values:

Justice:

Individually and as a community, we desire to live in right relationship with God, each other, and all of Creation. We long to act justly and equitably and to break down barriers of injustice in the community around us. We strive to demonstrate this pursuit in tangible ways through our words and activity.

In our worship ministry, pursuing justice includes the willingness to step into new and unfamiliar expressions of worship to show hospitality and solidarity with our community and the global church. Whether through songs in different genres, prayers in different languages, or having more voices throughout planning. Our goal is not merely to partake in expressions of worship that we personally relate to, but to worship as an individual member of the larger body of Christ, in which we are united across all nations, tongues, and social classifications.

Generosity:

We give of our resources (including time, talents, energy, attention, and finances) to participate in what we discern to be God's work in this world locally and globally. We interact with a generosity of Spirit in relationships, extending God's love, patience, and kindness to individuals at all points of their spiritual journey.

In our worship ministry, generosity includes the willingness to give our time, energy, and full presence to serve the community with our gifts. In order to do

this, we are prepared, we pay attention to one another (both relationally and musically), and we take a posture of humility. Practically, this looks like preparing on our own (not just during rehearsal), showing up to rehearsal on time, and taking a genuine interest in each other so that we are able to show compassion and empathy, to pray for one another, and to share in each other's joys and burdens.

Spirit-Led

We trust in the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in and among us. We listen for God's will and discern together how to participate in what God is doing in this world. We respond in faith when prompted to do so by the Holy Spirit.

In our worship ministry, being Spirit-led involves paying attention to the movement of the Spirit in both our gatherings and our rehearsals. Perfect planning and execution are not only unrealistic expectations, they're also completely meaningless if we aren't truly listening for the Spirit's direction. We need to be able to trust what the Spirit is doing in and among us more than our own plans or abilities.

Growth

We seek to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. We do this by putting the Scriptures into practice in our daily lives and by serving sacrificially (missionally) in the world. We challenge and stretch our hearts and minds by engaging in opportunities that promote continuous spiritual formation in the way of Jesus.

In our worship ministry, growth involves being committed to personal formation and relational connection with our team. Opportunities we've created for growth in these areas include worship team gatherings, trainings, and retreats. When we grow in our abilities, knowledge, creativity, and relationship with one another, we expand our potential for depth, both on our team and through our larger CG gatherings.

Belonging

We make establishing, building, and maintaining meaningful, deep, and intentional relationships with God and one another a priority. We value and respect the image of God in all people. We trust that a variety of perspectives leads to deeper community.

In our worship ministry, belonging involves seeking peace and joy in our relationships with one another. We support, encourage, listen, and value each member of the worship ministry above ourselves. And we consider it an honor to serve together, regardless of differences in style, preference, ability, or perspective.

Worship Team Expectations:

As a member of the Common Ground Midtown worship ministry team, you are committing to...

YOUR OWN PERSONAL FORMATION:

Worship changes the worshiper into the image of the One worshiped.

We do this through:

- **A Posture Of Curiosity and Humility:** You are an ever-evolving, growing person. You were made in a way that pulls you closer to Jesus and as you move with the Spirit, you change, you grow, maybe even sometimes grieve, and you learn new ways of seeing/being/moving and that's all good! Being on the worship team means you are committed to continuing that journey with the Spirit.
- **Being A Living Sacrifice:** The invitation to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves is always before us. We are always on a journey of understanding the depth of that call and the beauty that comes when God's Church sets into that space together. We are committed to living that out, however imperfectly, by taking conscious and active steps to become more like Jesus in your everyday lives. In worship, we are saying Yes to daily worshiping the One we are inviting our Church to see and engage with.
- **Growing Your Craft:** God has given each of us gifts that can be used on the worship ministry team. God has also made each of us uniquely. As such, our expression of our God given gifts shouldn't merely be a matter of executing a task, but should be seen as an act of co-creation with God and a joyful exercise of our Image-bearing, creative nature.

OUR TEAM'S COLLECTIVE MUSICAL AND RELATIONAL FORMATION:

"When brothers and sisters worship Jesus Christ, they do not fall at his feet in broken submission, but in wondering love. A man does not say, 'I cannot resist a might like that.' He says, 'Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all.' A man does not say, 'I am battered into surrender.' He says, 'I am lost in wonder, love, and praise.'" - William Barclay

We do this by:

- **Being Engaged And Present:** *We believe in being engaged and present because God desires and deserves all of us. We bring our whole selves to every midweek rehearsal, Sunday morning, and all gatherings with the heart that we are coming before the Lord of Lords together in awe and need—to attach ourselves to the Story of Love and Reconciliation. We engage our minds and hearts through creativity, honesty, and trust.*

- Being Prepared. This means coming fully prepared to Thursday night rehearsal, knowing your parts (instrumentally/vocally; as a tech member—through awareness of the service flow/band set up) to each song we are playing. This requires a commitment to looking at Planning Center to see the songs, keys, understanding who's leading each song, listening to Prime loops, and reviewing any other general notes *ahead of time*. Our Thursday evening rehearsals are meant to be a time for us to come together to fine tune the work that has already been put in, and more importantly, to worship with one another without pressure or expectation. Our preparation, musically, helps us to honor and set up our tech team in a way for them to excel in their craft.
- By Embodying Humility. We all have preferences when it comes to song choices, clicks and loops, genres, and language usage. When we commit to the worship ministry we are saying yes to each other and not our own preferences. This does not mean that we check our opinions/convictions at the door, but reminds us that our goal is not merely to engage in the expressions of worship that we prefer or find appealing.
- By Attending Gatherings, Trainings, Retreats, Conferences Together. In order to develop a relationship of trust, mutual understanding, and consistency among our teams, it is a priority to come to all team gatherings, trainings, and retreats.
- By Continuing To Grow In Our Abilities. We are committed to developing our skills through teaching, trainings, resources provided by the director and holding a posture of humility while we are stretched. This may come through different styles, languages, postures, all the way to the technical skills.

OUR CHURCH'S FORMATION

- We take seriously the values set forth by our leaders and Elders. We believe that Justice, Generosity, Spirit-Led, Belonging, and Growth matter and are avenues to truly join with God in the reconciliation of all things.
- We believe that we are living, breathing, changing beings that are continually being transformed as we learn, as our community's demographic shifts, as we grow together and we choose to lean towards each other, to ask questions, to hold a posture of curiosity and humility, and join our community in the work of the Spirit.

Personal Commitments:

As a member of the CG Midtown worship ministry team, each person commits to...

- Growing deeper in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Partnering in the mission, vision, and calling of Common Ground Midtown
- Serving at least one Sunday a month on the worship team rotation
- Attending meetings, worship team hangouts, and training/development opportunities

- Encouraging and praying for other members of the team, the CG Midtown community, and Sunday gatherings
- Attending CG Midtown on a regular basis, even when not serving
- Practicing and preparing on an ongoing basis

Worship Ministry Roles:

The following are the various roles included in the worship ministry. God has given each of us gifts that can be used on the worship ministry team. Our expression of our God given gifts shouldn't merely be a matter of executing a task, but should be seen as an act of co-creation with God and a joyful exercise of our Image-bearing, creative nature. Naming these areas gives us more freedom to grow in our craft and co create with our creator God.

WORSHIP TEAM MEMBER

A worship team member is a skilled musician/vocalist who has shown desire to use their gift to serve the greater body. These individuals are expected to learn and know the specific part for their instrument. Some are multi-instrumentalists. They also are expected to volunteer 1-2 times a month, receive ongoing growth and training in their specific field, participate at worship nights and other special events for Midtown.

SOUND PRODUCTION VOLUNTEER

The sound producer is a skilled technician who is organized and able to perform multiple tasks at once. They are humble and willing to expand on their knowledge of sound and worship. They are expected to be at both Thursday rehearsal and Sunday morning rehearsal/service. Each person brings a unique skill that helps the team succeed such as: volunteer training, engineering, problem solving, technical experience, team building. Each sound tech volunteer is required to serve once a month and receive ongoing growth and training in their specific field. May be called on to help at worship nights, T&Es, and other church events. Optional additional help (paid) would be weddings and other outside events.

VIDEO PRODUCTION VOLUNTEER

The video production volunteer is a person able and willing to run slides, focus on presenters and perform multiple tasks at once. This person must have a willingness to learn lights, video, and technology integration. They also must receive ongoing growth and training in their specific field. They are expected to know the flow of the service and songs so they can lead the congregation by slides. Each volunteer is expected to serve 1-2 times a month. Must be at both Thursday rehearsal and Sunday morning rehearsal/service. May be called on to help at worship nights, T&Es, and other church events. Optional additional help (Paid) would be weddings and other outside events that need multimedia.