

Notes on Quest Worship Gatherings

Quest is INTENTIONAL. Everything that we do in worship centers around two purposes. If it doesn't clearly address one of these two ideas, or lead us closer to these aims, it is not done.

The primary purpose of our worship gatherings is to help us connect with God.

The cross is the center of everything we do, and that visual image occurs in many places throughout the room – a persistent visual reminder of why we're doing it all.

- The cross-shaped altar table in the middle of the room
- The large cross at the front and center of the room
 - o Not the band or a pulpit, but the cross of Jesus Christ
- The “cross of crosses” on the wall
- Crosses throughout the room

Holy Communion is offered every week.

- An ancient practice carried out in modern, “user friendly” ways.
- Makes Jesus and the Gospel accessible.

Our worship music is relevant to the people to whom we're ministering.

- Contemporary sound with an ancient message helps everyone to connect with the words and with a God who is eternal and present with us today.

Stage design is intentionally planned to visually reinforce the message.

- Creates a multi-sensory approach to worship.
- Candles encourage reflection and a sacred feeling in the gatherings.
- Low lighting creates a sense of intimacy with God and with each other.
- Worship stations allow individuals to actively respond to God however they see fit.
 - o Prayer, writing, art, communion, offering

In planning our worship gatherings, it is also important that we create an environment conducive to making new friends, connecting with others on the journey, and being together as a community.

Our worship gatherings are participatory.

- Open mic sharing/confession/repentance times enhance the feeling of community as we are able to connect with others' struggles and triumphs and relate to their journey.
- Different members of the community are invited to participate in different ways, from reading Scripture to sharing their testimony to lighting the Advent candles to serving Communion.

- This allows everyone to be involved – not just passive members of an audience.
- Response time and worship stations allow individuals to involve themselves in the act of worship. Writings, artwork, and prayers offered at these stations are left for others to see.

We are constantly reminded that we are not alone in the journey.

- The word “community” is central to all we do.
- The style of the messages shows us that while we don’t have it all together, we’re all in this together.
 - John tells us of his struggles, which makes him approachable and real and encourages us by showing us that we aren’t the only ones who struggle.
 - Rhetorical questions in the message allow us to connect personally to what he is saying.
 - Listeners feel taught – not lectured to.

The worship space and total experience of worship brings individuals into a community.

- Seating arrangement allows us to really see other people and connect with them as we worship. We see faces, not the backs of people’s heads.
- The Worship Design Team intentionally designs each service and each series to reach people in personal ways that encourage growth and change.
 - Multiple images for each theme (stage design, slides, etc.)
 - Giveaways
 - Appropriate add-ins to correlate with the message (open mic, testimonies, commitment times, etc.)
 - Change things often enough that it doesn’t become routine and each week is, hopefully, a fresh experience.