

Worship 101

Welcome to **Keystone Heights Presbyterian Church** and to one of the most vital things that we do: worship the Living God in spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*). We hope that as you worship with us, your hearts will be enriched, your minds opened to the things of God, and your desires shaped to His will.

Below are a few pointers to assist you in joining fully into our worship.

First, worship is a *verb*! We invite you to be an active participant in our services. We seek to make the Sunday bulletin (*the tri-fold guide given as you enter*) a useful tool, along with your Bible and the hymnal, to help you participate fully. An asterisk (*) marks the parts of worship when we all stand.

Since we are a worshipping community, we may have a few announcements of common interest before the Prelude, but please read the items of interest in your bulletin. And please join us in any of our activities.

PRELUDE: A musical piece planned for reflection and preparation. We recognize that most of us lead very hectic lives. Please calm your heart and be preparing to meet God. Meditation on Scripture or reading over the words of hymns for the service is often helpful.

CALL TO WORSHIP: The service's tone begins with Scripture, reminding us all of our purpose.

SINGING UNTO THE LORD: We welcome you to pray, praise, and profess your faith during our songs. The pastor and music team select hymns or psalms that reinforce the message of the later sermon and also that lift up the Triune God. We use hymns that are time-tested, focused on God, and reverent. Our goal is to bring you into the presence of the exalted God, no less, who joins us in worship.

INVOCATION: A short prayer, inviting and acknowledging God's presence.

CONFESSION: Often we use historic confessions, catechisms and creeds to verbalize our faith publicly and to unite us together. Usually, the pastor will identify the time period or setting of an ancient confession. We also use prayers of confession, with an announcement of forgiveness from sin---which is good news for all believers. We invite you to enter sincerely into these opportunities to acknowledge our brokenness---in thought, word, and deed---and to receive God's forgiveness through Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER: a time to praise, petition, and communicate with God. We pray for specific needs of our congregation at this time, as well as use words and phrases from the Bible---some of the very best prayers ever.

OFFERING: Our church's work is supported by grateful givers and their tithes, which belong to the Lord (*Mal.3:10*).

SCRIPTURE READINGS: We believe that God's Word is perfect and cannot fail. Thus, we seek to saturate our worship with as much of God's Word as possible. Every service of worship will feature many portions of God's Word because it is the bread of life.

SERMON: an explanation, exhortation and application of the Bible verses read. Our pastor frequently preaches through books of the Bible, trusting God's Spirit to apply His Word to your hearts. The sermon's purpose is not to entertain, but is to unfold and apply the eternal message of God.

BENEDICTION: (*literally, "good word"*) is taken from Scripture to give a concluding blessing to the service. While the benediction is pronounced, reverently meditate and rejoice in God's blessing.

POSTLUDE: celebratory music played after the service has concluded. During this time, be sure to greet one another and deepen your friendships as an overflow of worship.

We value The LORD'S DAY so much at KHPC that we worship in the morning (*10:00 AM*) and gather every evening for Bible Study (*5:00 PM*). Please join us for evening Bible Study as well, which is both a great conclusion to a day of worship and a beginning of the new week.

In essence, we seek to worship God as modeled in Scripture, not according to human imagination, custom, creativity, or glamour. This ancient and reverent worship form depends on God's ordinary methods: preaching, prayer, and the sacraments as effective means by which God conveys grace, strength, truth, love, and eternal life. We extend our hands to invite you to join us.

Please return often to meet with the Living God!