



## Worship Service Update

### General Feedback:

1. Overall everyone we have spoken with loved shaking things up a bit. There was a sense of renewal and presence of the Holy Spirit that was unmistakable.
2. Everyone also loved having the whole church family together. We were no longer two congregations sharing the same building but one congregation again and it felt good.
3. Service was 1:15 minutes long. We will be working to get it to 1 hour or under.
4. People want to know if 10:00am single service is a permanent thing. The true answer is we don't know. For now, it's for the summer. However, we can tell we are being asked to create something new at Holy Cross. We want to keep our hearts open and remain obedient so the holy spirit can work through us to do that. We hope everyone will join in on this journey and keep the feedback and attendance coming.

### Specific notes and what we are doing about them:

- 1) We should stay focused on creating a worship experience that welcomes visitors and makes them feel comfortable as well as makes us feel comfortable.
  - a) Opening with a song and then going into passing of the piece worked well but we will smooth out the transition a bit, so it flows a bit better by singing the first part of the passing of the piece song and then Pastor Chad will invite everyone to pass the peace.

We will still have time to mingle but we will try to cut it down by about ½ for the sake of time.

b) Divine Reading or small group exercise was a first try and suffered from some opening night issues. We don't want to give up on the idea of listening to the reading and hearing the one thing the spirit is trying to communicate to us in it. But, In the future we won't play music over the reading or instructions. We will also try just having everyone note the one thing for themselves and not having the discussion.

2) We should keep trying to make the worship something new rather than a blend of or turn taking between the two styles of music.

Solutions:

a) No one really loved the a Capella songs. This Sunday Wade will accompany the songs from the hymnal with the piano/keyboard and will lead the song from the stage while anyone that attends the 9:45am Cantor Guild practice before church helps lead from the congregation.

b) Instead of a Capella hymns we will look into a simple, short song that we will all get to know and sing a Capella together each Sunday. Something like the Doxology. That way we can all still lift our voices together, but it will be less intimidating vocally for everyone.

c) The Sunday after next going forward we will curate music for each Sunday that supports the gospel and sermon and not worry so much about if we have a "balance" of the two types of music. Some Sundays will call for more hymns some Sundays will call for more band music. We will let the spirit lead us.

d) Part of the song curation will also include how many verses of hymns we sing. We won't necessary sing every verse. If the meaning and feeling can be captured in 2 or 3 verses that's what we will sing so we don't drag a song out too long and spoil, it's impact.

- e) Pastor Chad will explain that the time to offer prayer requests is during the prayers of the people or by slipping them into the prayer request box before PFTP each Sunday, so everyone can know this is their opportunity.
- f) We want to continue to work on ways to use the lay pastors in this process and integrate them into meeting spiritual needs of visitors and congregation members.