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Corporate Worship Acceptable To God

The worship of God is an awesome duty and an eternal occupation for the redeemed in heaven. This fact is generally acknowledged by all bible believing Christians. The Christian faith rests upon a fundamental

premise that God's favour is extended only to those who come to Him through the person and work of Christ. Yet, while many profess faith in Christ, professing Christians and churches differ widely in the manner in which they conduct their Sunday worship. There is a disturbing trend among modern mega Churches today in self-styled entertainment-based worship.

Such diversity in practice may prompt an inquiry. What means of worship does the Lord approve of? What pattern of worship does the Lord truly require of His people? Is there a specific biblical measure by which we may evaluate various practices of worship?

The present ecclesiastical scene illustrates the urgency of seeking a biblical understanding of worship. Some churches are introducing "contemporary" modes of worship: drama, magic shows, 'sacred prophetic dance' with loud jarring instruments, multi-media productions – even puppet shows. Others advocate free-style services, wherein anyone present may exercise his "gifts" spontaneously – religious democracy with a vengeance. There are still others who are alarmed by

growing ecclesiastical anarchy; their solution is to embrace the liturgical forms of Rome, Canterbury or Eastern Orthodoxy. Holiness and reverence before the Almighty God is lacking or totally missing.

Principles of Reformed Worship

Many churches, even some former conservative churches, take worship for granted today and have not sought the Word of our Lord as we



ought to in this matter. The Reformed churches hold a different perspective. We noted that the Bible contains specific principles which regulate all matters of worship:

- First, religious worship must be directed to the Lord God alone; worship must not be given to false deities, human or any created thing.
- Second, the only acceptable means of worship are those established by God. We will refer to it as the scriptural law of worship, as a reminder that the Lord regulates the worship of His people by means of His Word (see Westminster Confession of Faith).

Orderliness and decency are important in sacred honouring worship (1Cor 14: 40). We need to observe a correct perspective of the character and nature of God in worship. After the death of King Uzziah, Isaiah was overwhelmed with the holiness of God and conscious of his own depravity, so he humbled himself before God (Isaiah 6:1-8). That should be our attitude to holy worship too.

The Reformed churches premise differs sharply from the contemporary attitudes toward worship. Many people claim that Christians are free to employ a variety of practices in worship, as long as the means employed are not specifically forbidden in scripture. (If something is not forbidden, it is accounted to be alright). The worldly spirit of self-centred, amusement and entertainment with loud contemporary hypnotic music has infiltrated the church.

We reject this view as unacceptable. Certainly, any method of worship which is demonstrably unbiblical should be discarded immediately. Beware of every new fad and fashion to please men in modern worship that violates scriptural prohibition.

We believe that the scriptures contain general guidelines for worship which God himself has instituted. This is the force of scripture law of worship; it guards against man-made innovations in worship like showmanship, entertainment and choreographed dancing and other ostentatious behaviour in modernistic and liberal churches.



John 4:22-24 says, ‘Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.’ The advocates of man-centred worship always seek to

subvert or undermine true worship among the people of God. This is the real source of conflict over true worship, and If we seek to practice genuine biblical worship, beware of the advocates of mystical worship of man which is man-centred and fleshly.

Characteristics of Christocentric Worship

All our corporate worship should possess these pre-eminent characteristics:

- We must come reverently and prepared to worship the Lord with sincere hearts filled with love and fear for Him (1Chr 16:29-32).
- We must worship God using only the means established in His Word.

Any worship should have these qualities for we must not approach the Lord with corrupt motives or with improper methods (Lev 10:1-5).

We are to humbly submit to God's sovereign rules of worship in the scriptures alone and not invent new ones. During the worship service, members are to note the following: (as given by the Westminster divines in the Directory of Public Worship)

The congregation being assembled, the minister, after solemn calling on them to the worshipping of the great name of God, is to begin with prayer, in a call for worship followed by a hymn or the reading of scripture.

The public worship having begun, the people are wholly to attend upon it forbearing to read anything (including HP or laptops), except what the minister is then reading or citing; and **abstaining much more from all private whisperings, conferences, salutations, or doing reverence to any person present, or coming in; as also from all gazing, sleeping, and other indecent behaviour, which may disturb the minister or people, or hinder themselves or others in the service of God.**

If any, through necessity, be hindered from being present at the beginning, they ought not, when they come into the congregation, to betake themselves to their private devotions, but reverently to **compose themselves to join with the assembly in that ordinance of God** which is then in hand."



Practical Guidelines

Do consider prayerfully the following practical guidelines for the preparation for holy worship on the Lord's Day.

1. **Prepare your heart (and your children)** for the beginning of the Lord's Day and **frame your mind** for reverential public worship and prayer.
2. Enter into the holy assembly of saints in the presence of God reverently and punctually, not carelessly (and the Lord's Supper) and flippantly. Never miss the Lord's Day worship service except for valid reasons of absolute necessity or if one is on a bed of affliction.

3. Do not judge or be prejudiced against the message or messenger of the Word. Mark and attend fully to the Word of God, which is being read and preached to you.
4. **Beware of a slothful and sluggish disposition.** Be attentive, receptive and **pray for the minister and for yourself** in the humble reception of the Word preached to us.
5. Apply all the Word of God to yourselves according to its **relevance and usefulness.** As you leave the church, ask **“How do these promises reproof, or counsel, comfort or exhortation or direction concern me and how can I apply it throughout the week?”**
6. Above all, resolve to obey what God shall make known to be His will for you. Careless hearing and living tend toward a hardened heart and possible spiritual decline.
7. Do not be a mere hearer of prayers of the preacher but pray with the minister and beseech heaven corporately to answer our feeble cries and petitions for the saving of souls and edifying of the saints.
8. **Stir up your hearts** to alacrity and joy in the singing of hymns, the worship of God and sing aloud joyfully with the congregation.
9. **Be meditative and sober** in the whole worship service, ready to receive any instruction from God; be it from a prayer, hymn or the Word preached.
10. **Confess your sins and repent** of your evil ways and seek the Lord for forgiveness and pardon.
11. **Do not be distracted** by the things around you (eg. mobile phones) and do not let the cares of the world cloud your mind during the service.
12. Consider how you may **apply the message or practice** what you have learnt into your life today.
13. **Share** with someone a relevant lesson that you have learnt from the service and let another be blessed by the Word.
14. **Teach our children** to respect God’s house by paying attention and keeping silent, especially when the service is on.
15. At the close of the service, after the benediction, spend a few **quiet moments** to **reflect** or **ponder** to thank God for His Holy Word.



Conclusion

1Chr 16:29 says, 'Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.'

Genuine worship is a discipline, and it requires us to prepare our hearts the night before by resting earlier and to come reverently for worship on the Lord's Day and not be late. Worshippers are to be attentive and receptive to the Word. They are not to distract others by dreaming, sleeping or talking (or playing HP games or social media) but pay full attention to the preaching of the Word and singing from their hearts to the hymns and praying together with the chairman or the Pastor.



Children are also to be trained by parents to be disciplined not to disrupt the service. Let us teach our children to be quiet in times of reverential worship in the sanctuary.

After the service, let us meditate on the Word on its application and ponder about it throughout the rest of the day. If possible, fathers strive to have family worship with your children on the Sunday afternoon or evening. We are to share it with others and our family, friends and members in the fear of God.

Jack Sin



Pastoral Chat

- Rejoice with those who rejoice, Weep with those who weep-

The above is the counsel of Paul to all of us in Rom 12:15.

Many of us had joyous times of reunion and visitation during this Chinese New Year festive occasion. We thank God for families and friends.



On a more sobering note, the Session decided that instead of our normal online prayer meeting on Wednesday night, all worshippers were encouraged to attend the vigil service at 8 pm that night to comfort and pray with Rev Philip Heng and his family on the homegoing of his wife Dr Lee Moh Hoon who was promoted to glory on Monday 16 February 2026. Rev and Mrs Heng have been supportive of SHBPC since our inception, and we wanted to share this moment of loss with them for such a time as this.



"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
Psalm 23:6

"我一直一世必有恩惠慈爱跟随我；
我直住在耶和华的殿中，直到永远。"
诗篇 23:6

In Loving Memory of
李慕芸女士的
Dr Lee Moh Hoon
(Mrs Philip Heng Swee Choon)
李慕芸女士
Age 享寿: 85

Called home to be with the Lord on Monday, 16 February 2026
Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones
于2026年2月16日(星期一)
蒙主恩召，安返天家，被爱亲朋思念与缅怀。

<p>WAKE VISITATION 探病时间 Wed 星期三 (16 Feb) @ 11.00 am to 10.00 pm Thu 星期四 (16 Feb) @ 10.00 am to 10.00 pm</p> <p>MEMORIAL SERVICE 追思礼拜 Wednesday 星期三 (16 Feb) Thursday 星期四 (16 Feb) @ 8.00 pm</p> <p>WAKE ADDRESS 治丧地点 Sanctuary @ Oatlee B-P Church, 202 Pandan Gardens, Singapore 609338 202 雁丹花园 新加坡 609338</p>	<p>FUNERAL DAY 出殡礼拜 Friday, 20 February 2026 星期五</p> <p>Funeral Service 安息礼拜 @ 10.00 am Encoffin 抬柩 @ 10.30 am Cortege leaves wake 移柩 @ 10.45 am Burial Service 土葬仪式 @ 11.15 am to 11.45 am</p> <p>Choo Chu Kang (Protestant) Christian Cemetery @ Cemetery Central 6 / Cemetery Central Street 25 藏骨港 (基督教) 坟场, 第6和第25街</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Transport will be provided to and from the burial venue 家人可接受安排前往治丧地点的交通</p>
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For us who were at the vigil service, we had the privilege of hearing Rev Philip Heng’s testimony of how God provided Dr Lee for him and led them in God-honouring ways as they individually sought to put God first in their early years (for Rev Heng in theological training and Dr Lee in medical training). The Lord is no man’s debtor; He honoured their patient waiting and finally united them in marriage in Aug 1966. Rev and Mrs Heng had the joy of almost 60 years of marriage.

Rev Heng reminded us that believers in Christ are never really bereaved (ie. as in being deprived by being forcefully taken away) as one day, we will be reunited with our spouses (and loved ones) in God’s eternal home. We take comfort that absence in the body means being presence with the Lord. Rev Heng took the opportunity to share the gospel of salvation in Christ and eternal hope in Him to all who were present. Our hearts were indeed encouraged to witness Rev Heng’s faith and strength in the Lord even in the midst of this earthly loss of his beloved wife.



The body of Dr Lee Moh Hoon was laid to rest at Choa Chu Kang (CCK) cemetery on Friday 20 Feb. For us who have loved ones buried at CCK, we also had the blessed opportunity to remember their lives as the graves are a good memorial. Thank God for His Word in Gen 3:19 and Deut 34:6 that instructs us to bury our loved ones with dignity and thankful spirits for their lives.

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us of seasons in our life. It is good to be once again reminded of our mortality in both joyous as well as times of loss. Moses tells us in Psa 90:12 *“to number*

our days and apply our hearts unto wisdom” even as we await the Lord’s soon return in these perilous times.

Memory Verse

Rom 1:14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "**A Dedicated Debtor in Action (Matt 18:23-35; Rom 1:14-16)**". the quarterly series on "**Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life**".
3. Next Sun, Pastor will preach on "**A Lively Stone in God's Building (Eph 2:19-22)**".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. There will be a **Mission Outreach to Cameron Highlands on Mar 12** at the **Christian School ministry for Myanmar children** living in Malaysia run by **Bro Benjamin**. The mission team of Pastor, Angie, Joseph & Lilian Chan will also bring educational books and toys to support the school ministry. **Kindly contact Joseph (hp:90587005) or Lilian if you would like to contribute whether in kind or love gifts.**
7. **SHBPC Church Camp** will be **9-12 June 2026** on the theme "**The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age**". The camp speaker is **Dr Scott Hollander** from Tacoma, USA. The camp venue is at **Yello Hotel, Harbor Bay, Batam**. Contact Dn Paul/Bro Joseph Chan for more details and the registration form.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
9. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Dr Sam:** Returning to Wenzhou on 23 Feb
 - **Joseph & Rachel GPS CNY Outreach:** Thu 26 Feb.
 - **Monthly Bible Study Outreach @All Saints Home (Tampines):** Thu 26 Feb.
 - **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation],
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application], **John Almon** [NYP application]
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.