



**We Delight in the Lord:
The Vision, Core Beliefs, and Methodology
of the Music Ministry at Redemption Evangelical Church**

Vision:

To lead the church in musical worship, rejoicing in the being, word and work of the Father, Son and Spirit

Core Beliefs:

Given our vision, we hold to the following:

We believe that all worship must be fundamentally and overtly God-centered (Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8-11). Therefore, we will set our attention intently on the Lord and avoid distractions that shift attention away from Him. We seek to “worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).

We believe that true worshipers worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Therefore, we seek to instill a passion for the truth of God, attending carefully to the theological content of every song we sing together.

We believe that the church should teach and delight in the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27-28; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, we seek to magnify God in accordance with the fullness of His Word.

We believe that God’s people should worship Him in unity (Eph. 4:1-6). Therefore, we will not divide ourselves in worship. We gather together before the Lord without regard to age, race, gender, economic status, social position, or any other distinction that divides the unbelieving world (James 2:1).

We believe that the church’s worship takes place within community (Pss. 111:1; 149:1). Therefore, we will worship God in community as the body of Christ and denounce individualism in worship.

We believe that we must worship “with reverence and awe” (Heb. 12:28-29), serving “the Lord with fear,” rejoicing “with trembling” (Ps. 2:11). Therefore, we seek always to foster in our gatherings an atmosphere which respects the glory and majesty of God with a holy fear. We thus seek to foster an atmosphere untainted by flippancy, foolishness or triviality.

We believe that God commands us to praise Him with song (Ps. 100; Col. 3:16). Therefore, all believers ought thus to praise Him.

We believe that the Lord delights in a multitude of musical expressions (Ps. 150:3-6). Therefore, we encourage our people to develop God-given musical talents and use as appropriate a variety of instruments when we gather to worship.

We believe that both old and new songs should be offered to the Lord (Pss. 78:1-8; 98:1). Therefore, we seek to sing the songs of our fathers who have gone before us as well as the songs of God’s people today, that we might “not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Ps. 78:7).

We believe that true Christian worship occurs only in the hearts of regenerate believers (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Therefore, to ensure and encourage the purity of the church, we allow only members of Redemption Evangelical Church to lead the congregation on a regular basis in singing and playing music to the Lord.

We believe that genuine worship aims first and foremost at exalting God. In doing so, such worship serves also to edify the saints. We further believe that, as it accomplishes these primary and secondary goals, God uses the authentic worship of His people to draw unbelievers to Himself (1 Cor. 14:24-26).

We believe that the Lord deserves and requires the very best worship we can offer (1 Chr. 13:8; Ps. 33:3). Therefore, we strive for excellence in both message and medium, making every effort to achieve it in both the substance and the style of our worship.

Methodology:

We evaluate the content of each song on the basis of its conformity to the scriptures, its faithfulness to the theological tradition of the Christian church, and its helpfulness to the congregation as a whole.

We seek to sing songs that elaborate on the themes found in Redemption Evangelical Church's Statement of Faith:

- I. The Scriptures
- II. The True God
- III. The Fall of Man
- IV. The Way of Salvation
- V. Justification
- VI. The Freeness of Salvation
- VII. Grace in Regeneration
- VIII. Repentance and Faith
- IX. God's Purpose of Grace
- X. Sanctification
- XI. The Perseverance of Saints
- XII. The Harmony of Law and Gospel
- XIII. A Gospel Church
- XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- XV. The Christian Sabbath
- XVI. Civil Government
- XVII. The Righteous and the Wicked
- XVIII. The World to Come

The music ministry at REC seeks to incorporate these themes into our musical worship in the following ways:

weekly we will choose songs in accord with REC's Statement of Faith,

quarterly we will cover every theme in song at least once, and

annually we will evaluate our progress in promoting doctrine through song and improve our methodology where it is lacking.