

Praise Team Guidelines

Introduction

Our Praise Team ministry exists to proclaim Christ and disciple those who proclaim Christ all for the glory of Christ. Praise Teams are small vocal ensembles that, along with the Minister of Music & Worship, lead congregational singing during our corporate worship services.

Praise Team singers are disciples of Jesus Christ who have been gifted by God to bring honor and glory to Him through music. They are passionate about helping our church worship the Lord in Spirit and truth.

We have crafted the following Praise Team guidelines after much prayer, Scripture study, and seeking godly counsel. Praise Team members must abide by the following guidelines in order to serve in the Praise Team ministry.

Corporate Worship Services

Our corporate worship services are different than any other time during our week. As a church, we are meeting together to meet with God. This is both a joyful and sobering thought:

Joyful, that the sovereign King of all the universe would be so gracious as to provide salvation for us as sinners, stoop to love and care for us, desire our worship, and meet with us each week.

Sobering, because He is greater, higher, more holy, more awesome, and more terrifying in His power and righteousness than we can imagine.

He is God Almighty, the holy and gracious One, and we approach Him only in the way He has revealed in Scripture: we approach Him only through Jesus Christ and because of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

- **We are careful to emphasize God's holiness and righteousness.**
- **We are careful to bring honor, glory, and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We are careful to focus on the gospel and its implications for our lives, and we are willing to share the gospel with others as God leads.**
- **We are careful to emphasize Scriptural elements of worship, such as Biblical preaching, singing, Scripture reading, prayer, and giving.**

Leadership Guidelines

- Praise Team members are **both worshipers and worship leaders**: they recognize that they are worshiping from their hearts and not putting on a show or a performance.
- Praise Team members are **active members of Trinity Baptist Church**:
 - They have completed the membership process.
 - They regularly attend (at least 3—4 times per month) corporate worship services at TBC, unless Providentially hindered.
 - They regularly attend (at least 3—4 times per month) a Sunday School class at TBC, unless Providentially hindered.

- Praise Team members are ***committed to spiritual disciplines***: they are intentional about practicing disciplines that help them draw closer to the Lord, such as personal Bible study, prayer, engaging in ministry, etc.
- Praise Team members are ***committed to personal holiness***: they are careful not to engage in behavior that would bring reproach to the name of Christ; they seek to glorify God with their lives.
- Praise Team members are ***humble***:
 - They recognize that they are part of a team and are ***committed to making the team better***, not exalting themselves.
 - They are ***open to direction and correction*** from leaders.

Excellence

- Praise Team members are ***expressive in corporate worship***: they allow their gestures and facial expressions to reveal the worship that is happening in their hearts. Their expressiveness is for the purpose of leading others, not for drawing attention to themselves.
- Praise Team members are ***committed to improving their musical skills***.
- Praise Team members ***honor their time commitments*** and ***value punctuality***: they show up on time when they are scheduled, unless Providentially hindered.

Each Praise Team member is usually scheduled to sing once or twice in a two month period. We are generally able to be quite flexible about scheduling around conflicts (i.e. vacations, work-related issues, etc.). However, if a scheduling conflict does arise, it is incumbent upon the Praise Team member to arrange a substitute from the approved Praise Team member list, and/or contact the Praise Team Coordinator.

When members are scheduled to sing on a Sunday, they are expected to sing in both morning worship services (8:30am & 11:00am) that day, as well as attend the warm-up/rehearsal prior to the 8:30am service.

In addition, when members are scheduled for a particular Sunday, they are expected to attend rehearsal at 6:15pm on the Wednesday prior to their scheduled Sunday. Again, if a scheduling conflict does arise, it is incumbent upon the Praise Team member to contact the Praise Team Coordinator immediately.

Dress code

- Praise Team members are ***committed to modesty in their personal appearance***: they do not want anything they wear (or don't wear) to distract people from worshipping the Lord.

Principles:

- **Keep it "G-rated"**.

It should be obvious that Praise Team members will refrain from wearing

revealing necklines, short skirts, and tight-fitting clothes (this goes for men as well).

- Dress your age.

18-year olds should look like 18-year olds; 40-year olds should not. Enough said.

- If you have a question about it, don't wear it.

If you think it might possibly distract someone from worshiping the Lord, why would you want to take that chance? Keep it in your closet, and wear something else.

Specifics:

- No plunging necklines (no cleavage showing).

- Tops must be long enough to cover your stomach if you raise your arms.

- Skirts must go at least below your knees. This includes slits (no slits higher than your knees). You are on a raised platform, which allows people in the front to see higher up your legs than you realize or intend.

If you don't have skirts that will meet this requirement, wear slacks.

Save your shorter skirts for another time when you're not leading worship.

- No form-fitting attire; No tights or leggings as your only "pants".

If you wear tights or leggings, you must have a skirt that goes at least below your knees (see above). If you are wearing tights or leggings with a long top, the top must go at least below your knees. Again, you are on a raised platform, which allows people in the front to see higher up your legs than you realize or intend.

- If you are going to wear jeans, please make sure they are "dressy" —clean, no holes, not tight.

- No t-shirts with logos.

- No spangles, sparkles, sequined tops, flashy jewelry, etc. (they catch the stage lights and will be distracting).

Please understand that we are committed to ensure that those in worship leadership positions are actually leading in worship and not being a distraction during our corporate worship services. If a Praise Team member comes to lead worship attired in a way that is deemed by the Minister of Music and Worship to be a distraction, he or she will be asked to not sing on that day.