

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY HANDBOOK





TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from Jon Lilley	2
How To Use This Handbook	3
Key Verse	4
Defining Worship	5
Defining Harmony	7
The 3 E's	9
Worship with Character	11
Guiding Scripture	12
Serve	15
Contact Us	16

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29



A note from Jon Lilley, Worship Arts Pastor

Some of my fondest memories of worship were in youth group around the campfire. We would all circle up around the fire pit, and my youth leader would start fiddling around on his guitar. We would enjoy the warmth of the flames, sing the songs we knew, and listen to and enjoy the ones we didn't. But our eyes would all be fixed on one thing: the flame. There is something mesmerizing about a flickering flame as you watch it dance, and leap, and consume anything in its reach.

I believe that corporate worship of God is like coming around the campfire. It's no coincidence that in Scripture, and in the context of worship, God is described as a consuming fire:

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29

When it comes to worship, God describes himself as a consuming fire. He burns away all the fluff and flattery and false worship that doesn't last, until all that is left are the hot coals and embers of true, spiritual worship.

You are invited to join us around the campfire, as we gaze in awe at the worthy one, Jesus Christ, and ascribe to Him value and honor as the one true God. We toss in our praises, our talents, our time, our work, our very lives and we watch Him light up this world. All of us for all of Him.



The Harmony Handbook is meant to align our minds and hearts toward a unified view of worship and worship ministry. You will find helpful worship definitions and principles, as well as opportunities to get involved.

It is our desire to free you from any fear and falsehood, and lead you toward a life of genuine and joyful worship together.

May you be encouraged. May you be equipped. May you be expressive.

From the Woodcreek Worship Arts leadership team:

Jon Lilley, Worship Arts Pastor
Michael Black, AV Director
Anna Biggs, Worship Arts Assistant

KEY VERSE



May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such **harmony** with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 15:5-6**



DEFINING WORSHIP

WE ARE MADE TO WORSHIP

We can't help but worship. We ascribe value to everything and everyone, and we praise that which we deem worthy. Worship is the ascribing of worth to something or someone. In fact, the word worship is simply a shortened version of the Old English word *worth-ship*.

wor·ship

/ˈwərSHəp/

noun: the expression of reverence and adoration

verb: to ascribe worth to something or someone


And so, with this definition, worship can be offered to anything that we deem worthy of our time, resources, and devotion. Consider the fanatic praise of a sports team, the obsession with a celebrity, the adoration of a spouse, or the devotion to a cause.

Yet there is no *thing* and no *one* more worthy of our worship than Almighty God, as John writes in Revelation 4:11

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

In the Bible, God is the sole object of genuine worship.

Nothing else and no one else is worthy to receive our full, undivided worship. All that is God is worthy of all that we are. And so genuine worship means glorifying God with all that defines you: your time, your talent, your work, your words. As the psalmist says:



**“Bless the LORD, O my soul!
and all that is within me
bless His holy name!”**

**The Woodcreek Worship Arts Ministry
exists to seek genuine **worship** together.**



DEFINING HARMONY

LIVING IN HARMONY

Have you ever heard the warmth of a perfect blend of voices? Or the balance of a beautiful piano chord? Or the richness of a sweet string ensemble? These are all examples of harmony enjoyed in music, but the concept of harmony reaches far beyond what we hear.

har·mo·ny
/'härmənē/

noun: (1) the quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole (2) agreement or accord

Harmony can be seen in the relationship of color in a painting, in the synchronized choreography of a dance, and in the work of a production team to pull off a Broadway show. You see, harmony is about relationships. Take a look at our worship arts ministry key verse:

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Romans 15:5-6**

God’s desire for us as worshipers is to live in harmony with one another.

This means that no one talent or expression of worship stands alone. We have the opportunity and privilege to come together, at all skill levels and with all expressions of praise, and take advantage our rich diversity and creativity to honor the Creator. Pursuing this kind of harmony unifies us in one voice to “glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Woodcreek Worship Arts Ministry exists to promote and produce **harmony.**

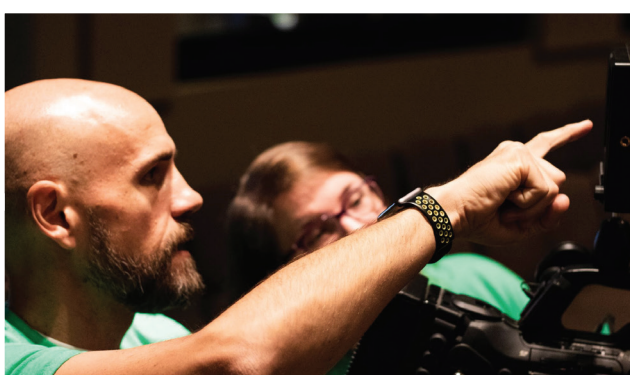
We see a relationship between music, creative arts, and production. When working together, these art forms produce something greater than the sum of their parts. We desire to see harmony at the ministry level, the small group level, and the individual level. We desire to see harmony between: young and old, professional and amateur, dancer and singer, painter and writer, sound engineer, and camera operator.



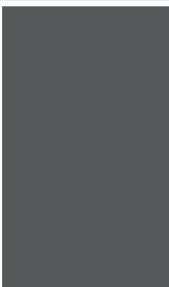
Here at Woodcreek, we take full advantage of our rich diversity of arts and artists as we come together in the unity of Jesus Christ.

The outcome is a community of believers coming together with one voice to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

THE 3 E'S



How do we cultivate a worship community to pursue harmony for the glory of God?



We practice the three E's: Encourage, Equip, and Express.



ENCOURAGE

We have the opportunity to see passions and gifts in others and encourage them to share them for the glory of God. Encouragement is honest, sensitive to the skill level of the individual, and provides positive reinforcement. It gives courage for others to be all they were made by God to be.

EQUIP

Woodcreek Worship Arts provides equipping opportunities to grow together in our skills and find new ways to worship. Never be afraid to ask someone to teach you something, or offer your expertise at the appropriate time. May we always “equip the saints for the work of the ministry” according to Ephesians 4:11-13.

EXPRESS

Everyone’s faith should find joy in expression. We are committed to helping everyone find a medium and platform to express their faith. May the world hear of God’s goodness! As Psalm 150:6 says: “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”

ENCOURAGE



EQUIP | EXPRESS

As worship team members, no matter the role, we are all leading others in worship. We must accept the responsibility of character that accompanies this privilege. This is our contribution to the harmony God desires in our worship community. We are all expected to be Spirit-led, prepared, punctual, authentic, humble, team players, and to be practicing excellence.

Spirit-Led

The Holy Spirit is our Great Worship Leader. Continually seek His prompting. Always make it about God and not about you. Make Him great.

Prepared & Punctual

Prepare mentally, physically, and spiritually for your role. Come early to rehearsals and services to honor everyone else's time.

Authentic

Bring an honest heart to worship and be sober-minded about your own roles and abilities. Be up front with team members and leaders about your expectations and desires.

Humble

Treat others better than yourself and be quick to give up the spotlight or the control.

Team Player

Follow the directions from leaders. Work toward the greater good. Be about the team and raise others up in encouragement. Add your instrument or role in a tasteful way to the greater goal of leading worship. Respond to emails and requests in a timely manner.

Practicing Excellence

Practice hard, pursuing excellence. Avoid dismissing "easy" roles or parts, and do them to your best ability.

We have found the passages below to be a guiding light as we seek to worship God authentically and biblically. They are not exhaustive, and knowing a handful of verses will never replace studying and holding the unified message of Scripture in its entirety. Yet, these verses can be an instructive starting point in pursuing a heart of worship.

GUIDING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Psalms 9:1-2

I will praise you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your marvelous works.
I will be glad and rejoice in you.
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalms 103:1

Bless the LORD, O my soul
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Hosea 6:3

Oh that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of the dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.

John 4:19-26

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Romans 12:1

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.

Ephesians 5:17-21

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Revelation 4:11

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.



GUIDING
SCRIPTURE

SERVE



It is our hope to give you opportunities to serve where your talents, passions, and calling align.

For more info, resources, & audition details, visit us online!

WoodcreekChurch.com/WorshipArts

CONTACT US



If you have any ideas, suggestions, questions, or concerns, please contact a Woodcreek Worship Arts staff member:

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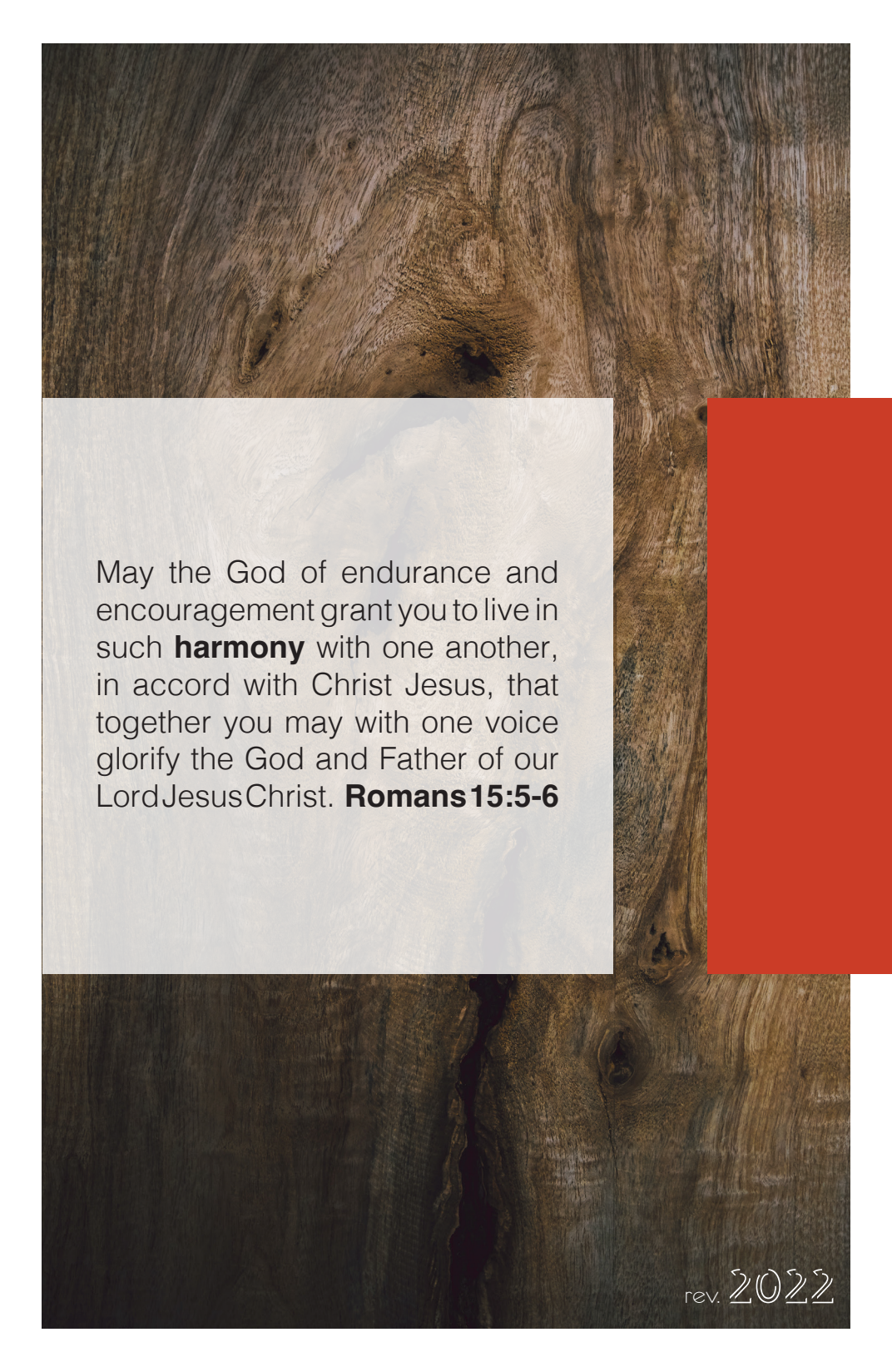
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