

Why Do Christians Gather to
Worship Together On Sunday?

Sunday is the first day of the week, the day that the women discovered the empty tomb and knew that Jesus had risen from death. Every Sunday is like a little celebration of the good news of Easter. The holy day for Jewish people is Saturday. For Muslims it is Friday. Sunday is the day of celebration and worship for Christians, followers of Jesus.

**GOD
LOVES
YOU!!!**

(More than you'll ever know!)

Welcome to Worship!



**Welcome
To our Church**

On Sunday the **whole church family** gathers to worship together.

Worship is just a way of being with God. Sometimes we speak, sometimes we listen, sometimes we do special things.

We hope this folder helps you understand what's happening so **you** can join in our worship!

Each Sunday we receive an Order of Service bulletin which tells us what will happen. Here is one order of worship. Yours may be a little different from this pamphlet. You may also want to follow along on the screens, so your hands can be free.

Part 1: We Gather In Community

(Gathering and getting ready to hear God's message.)

1. **Greeting:** Usually a scripture verse or some other short phrase (s) to indicate that the service is starting and to shift our focus. (If there are words in bold, we invite you to participate by saying them out loud.)
2. **Introit:** A hymn of praise about how good and great God is.
3. **Welcome and Announcement:** We check in with each other every week and let everyone know about the awesome stuff that's happening at St. Paul's and in our community.
4. **Call to Worship:** The leader invites us to worship God. (If there are words in bold, we invite you to participate by saying them out loud.)
5. **Prayer of Approach:** A prayer that reminds us that God is with us. We may end by singing or saying The **Lord's Prayer**, that Jesus taught his followers to pray. Christians all around the world say this prayer in their own languages.
6. **Time for the Young at Heart:** There's a little child in every one of us. Anyone who wishes may join the leader at the front of the church for a special story and prayer based on the day's scripture theme.
7. **Hymn of Praise:** A song that ties in with the theme and invites us to worship God.
8. **Prayer of Confession:** We say we're sorry for things we have said or done that hurt us or others. The **Assurance of God's Love** reminds us that God forgives us and we are loved.

Part 2: We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

(We listen for God's message.)

9. **Sung Prayer for Illumination:** We open our hearts and minds, ready to listen for what God might be saying to us today.
10. **Scripture:** Readings from the Bible. (If you have a Bible, find the place and read along. Sometimes the words are a bit different.)
11. **Anthem:** A musical gift offered by the choir to the glory of God.
12. **Sermon:** A minister explains what the Scripture readings mean for us in our lives. (If you find it hard to listen, use the pencil in your pew to write down the parts you have questions about, and ask about them after the service.)
13. **Hymn:** This song usually has the same idea as the Scripture and sermon. Can you tell if it does?

Part 3: We Respond to the Spirit

(We answer by showing that we want to live God's way.)

14. **Offering:** We bring our gifts to God. These gifts may be a friendly smile, a helping hand, or the money we give to help the church do God's work. The **Dedication Verse and Prayer of Dedication** praise God for all that we are blessed with, and commits those blessings back to God to help others.
15. **Prayers of the People:** We pray about our concerns for the world, each other, and ourselves.
16. **Hymn:** Are there words in this song that inspire you to live God's way?
17. **Blessing and Sending Forth:** The leader blesses us as we leave the space, then we are sent out into the world to be a blessing to others.
18. **Choral Closing:** Like a musical exclamation point on what we