

Welcome!!!!

This is your chance to share your feelings about worship, to hear others, and to imagine in community where we are and where we are going.

This is an honest space but a kind one. Please attempt to avoid blaming someone else for your perceptions of worship, especially because we don't have all the facts. Please focus on "I" statements and on your own spiritual journey.

Process: Please pick one person to be a "scribe" who will help take notes, and bring the most important impacts from your group back to the larger group.

Begin by asking each person in the group if they have an insight or an initial thing to say about worship, their spiritual needs, or their dreams for the future.

Here are some prompts to start thinking about. These won't go in order, and if a question doesn't speak to you, don't worry about trying to answer it

- A) What has been giving you life in worship lately?
- B) What has been challenging for you
- C) Do you have an honest question you would like to ask of the musicians?
- D) If you are one of the people whose mind has changed over time about the music, what did that look like for you?
- E) Is there one song you've been glad to hear lately?
- F) Is there an element of worship you wish would change, and any others would remain the same at least most of the time?

After 35-40 minutes, you'll start winding down by selecting the things you most want to go back to the larger group.

Then we'll take that time together to share our conversations with that larger group.

Here are tentative dates for either May 22nd or June 5th in the afternoon at 2pm that are potential places to continue this conversation.

There are some suggestions for respectful and engaged conversation on the back

1. Each person will have the chance to respond to a question and then others may ask questions about the person's comments.
2. Nobody should speak twice until everyone has had the chance to speak once. Or after you have spoken, ask others for their input before offering your input again.
3. Introduce disagreement with the words, 'I see that a little differently.'
4. Use softening statements - such as, "I could be wrong," or "That's how I see it, but others might see it differently" - to avoid needless offense.
5. All of these guidelines, of course, can be summed up very simply: Treat others as you would be treated. Love your neighbor as yourself.
6. It's OK for there to be a period of silence for us to reflect before answering. Silence is a good thing. Whenever you feel ready to answer, please speak up.
7. If one member is very talkative while others hold back, try privately asking the more talkative member to help you draw out the less talkative members next time. Say something like, "You are so comfortable speaking up, but some other participants are really shy. Could you help me to draw them out more so that we hear more from everyone next time?"
8. If a member makes comments that are offensive to others, it may be necessary to interrupt them. "I'm sorry to interrupt, but we agreed to some guidelines or ground rules for our group that I need to re-clarify right now." Whenever possible, this can be handled privately between meetings or during a break.