



## Why We Worship as We Do

Among the greatest controversies in evangelical Christianity today is the debate over worship styles and traditions. Some churches are characterized by traditional worship (hymns, piano/organ accompaniment, choirs and soloists who sing sacred music, and little or no hand raising, clapping to music, or verbal expressions of praise from the congregants). Others are characterized by a more contemporary style of worship (modern praise songs, worship leading ensembles, bands which play contemporary instruments, and celebrative worship which may include hand raising, clapping to music, dancing, and verbal outbursts of praise from the congregants).

At MVCC we attempt to bring together the best of both worship styles. We begin each worship service with 20 minutes or more of congregational singing, which often includes contemporary choruses and some traditional hymns. This practice allows us to corporately express our love and gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done. We also enjoy the inspirational singing of our gospel choir as worship through dance by our dance ministry.

Regarding how individual congregants express themselves, worshippers at MVCC are free to praise God as they see fit as long as Biblical order is honored and maintained. Acceptable expressions of worship include:

1. singing (Psalm 149:1)
  2. playing musical instruments (Psalm 33:3; Psalm 150:3-5)
  3. clapping (Psalm 47:1a) – both applause and a rhythmic response to music
  4. lifting our hands (Psalm 134:2; 1 Timothy 2:8)
  5. shouting (Psalm 47:1b; Psalm 100:1) – the bold and joyful expression of verbal praise
  6. dancing (Psalm 149:3)
  7. bowing (Psalm 95:6a)
  8. kneeling (Psalm 95:6b)
- ❖ Some believe they possess the gifts of speaking in tongue spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12-14. We humbly request if you desire to exercise this practice that you do so privately at the altar during our prayer time or intimately at your seat (1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 14:9-22).