

## **The Setting**

You will enter what we refer to as the "*auditorium*." There will be long padded pews (or benches) for the worshippers. There are no reserved seats, so feel free to sit anywhere you choose. The auditorium is rather large and will seat about 800+ people so there will be plenty of room for you. There will be ushers near the doors to help you find where to go upon your arrival. Be sure to pick up a visitors packet which you will find by the doors.

## **Singing**

When it's time to sing, the song leader will make his way to the front of the auditorium. At Highland Heights, we enjoy a capella singing at each of our worship services. You will see the songs projected on to a large projection screen or you can find the songs in a book in front of your seat.

One of the unique things about churches of Christ is that the music is "*a capella*." That is, we sing without the accompaniment of musical instruments. This is a *conviction* with us, not just a *preference*. We are seeking to worship according to the New Testament pattern. Since the New Testament leaves instrumental music out, we believe it's best to exclude it, too. ( I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12).

## **Praying**

There will be several prayers during the service. And there may be prayers for specific needs and requests.

## **Preaching**

You will notice that the preacher doesn't have a title. He won't be referred to as *Pastor* or *Reverend*. He may be addressed as *Doctor*, but only if he has earned that academic credential. He will probably be referred to as *brother*. Neither will he be wearing any ecclesiastical vestments which set him apart.

The reason for this is our belief in the priesthood of all believers. That all are equal. (Matthew 23:8-12; Galatians 3:26-28; I Peter 2:5,9). The sermon will likely be around 30 minutes. We think you will find it refreshingly Bible-centered.

## **The Invitation**

At the close of the sermon, the preacher will "*extend an invitation*." This is simply an expedient time to invite those who are moved to do so, to make a commitment or request prayer support. He will encourage those who wish to "*respond*" to come to the front of the auditorium while the congregation sings a hymn. There may be several who respond, or none.

Some may respond for baptism, some to confess sin, and some to ask for prayer for a specific need. You are not expected to say or do anything in our worship service. There will be a visitor card available at your seat for you to make any request you wish. You can just place that in the collection plate as it is passed.

If anyone responds for baptism, you will witness the baptism during this service. The baptism will be by immersion. (Acts 8:35-39; Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12). And it will be for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).

## **The Lord's Supper**

If you visit on a Sunday morning, the Lord's Supper will be included in the worship proceedings - because churches of Christ observe this memorial every Sunday.

Again, the reason for this is our desire to follow New Testament teaching. The first century church celebrated this observance on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7).

During this memorial, plates containing pieces of unleavened bread will be passed throughout the congregation. The bread symbolizes the body of Jesus. (I Corinthians 11:23-25). Each participating person will break off a piece of the bread and eat it.

Next, trays filled with small cups will be distributed. The cup will contain "fruit of the vine," usually grape juice, symbolizing the blood of Jesus. Each participant will drink the contents of one of the cups.

## **Offering**

Also, if you visit on a Sunday morning, containers will be passed to collect the weekly financial offering. (I Corinthians 16:1-2) As our guest, you are not expected to make a donation. Feel perfectly comfortable in just passing the collection plate on down the row.

## **What Will Be Expected of You**

*Nothing at all!* You are welcome to participate. Feel free to worship our God in song, prayer and being encouraged from the Word.

## **What Should You Wear?**

We are not very concerned with your dress. You will find some men in suits and some ladies in dresses. You will find many who are not dressed as formally. We just ask that you come – dress comfortably – must most of all...just come.

## **The People**

What kind of people can you expect to find?

We're a diverse group, coming from varied backgrounds, and at different stages of knowledge and spiritual growth. We were not brought together by any illusion of our perfection or righteousness. We were brought together by our recognition that we are sinners in need of the cleansing blood of Jesus. (Mark 2:17; Romans 5:6-9; Ephesians 1:7; I John 1:7).

That's the reason we can worship together, stick together, and, with God's help, accomplish some things that make a difference. You won't have to look very far to find our failures. But, the bottom line, you will find people who love Jesus and love the Bible.