

Sharing a Testimony in Offerings

One of the church's historic practices—especially shared in the early Methodist tradition—is sharing and hearing testimony about God's work in people's lives. At Offerings, we'd like to incorporate more testimonies into our worship. It takes a different form than the sermon or any other part of the worship service.

Thanks for considering sharing with us. Here are some things to consider:

What is a testimony?

It's sharing about what God has done and is doing in your life. Most of the testimonies you've heard may be conversion stories. Those are great for us to hear and share, but we believe God is continually at work in our lives, long after conversion, so we'd love to hear other stories, as well.

Some prompts

A few questions to consider that might help you identify some opportunities for sharing:

- How have you experienced God's goodness, or faithfulness, or compassion, or presence in the past year?
- Has your relationship to God changed through: prayer, worship, study, relationships, giving, service, sharing your faith?
- Is there a phrase from Scripture, or from the church's liturgies, or from a song, that has had special meaning or importance for you in the past year?
- Has God convicted you about anything and transformed your life through that change?
- Have you seen God work powerfully in someone else's life? (And you have their permission or know they'll be okay with you sharing.)
- How are you different than you were a year ago, and what has God done in that process?

Some practical points

To be sure we incorporate your testimony well in worship, a few requests and recommendations:

- **Your testimony is your story about experiencing God's goodness.** Don't attempt to teach, give advice, or make big general statements. Just tell your story in a way that you can end with "Praise be to God!" (Even if it's tough and unfinished.)
- **Keep the focus on what God has done.** Other people and events are likely to be part of your story, and it's good to share any necessary details about those, but be sure God's action is the primary focus.
- **Write what you'd like to say.** This might help with focus and clarity and will give you something to rely on, especially if what you're sharing is emotional.
- **Please plan on no more than 5 minutes.** If your written testimony is around 500 words, you should be in good shape.
- **Please send your written testimony to Teddy one week in advance.** This will allow us to prepare and plan well for its place in the worship service.