

Pacific InterChristian Community

Why We Worship the Way We Do

A progressive community

PIC is sensitive to the flow of Spirit around us, among us and through us. We see worship as the embodied prayer of all who gather. And we understand the celebration of holy presence and love to be a part of God's continuing creativity in the world, mending human hearts and the earth.

Unity in diversity

PIC takes seriously the varying needs of people who may be present. Our worship time includes both silent and embodied forms of prayer. Provision is made for children to either participate with their families, or in related activities close by. Sung refrains are memorable, so that everyone can feel confident without over-dependence on reading. A variety of poetic images are used to describe the divine. The entire liturgy is printed, flexible and participatory, and leadership roles are easily shared. PIC worship has the feel of loving extended-family in a candle-lit living room.

Creativity and pattern

Seasonal patterns ground our worship in the story of Jesus, much like a trellis supports a vine. In the cycles of Christmas and Easter, we embody the unity of humanness and holiness through which we experience the nurturing and renewing powers of divine compassion. In the weekly ritual meal, we experience the fullness of "being" so we can pour ourselves out for a broader love. There are regular opportunities in PIC worship for reflecting on sacred writings, and for asking the community to pray for the situations and individuals we hold in our hearts. In all of these ways we share and celebrate the sacred miracle of life itself.

Commitment to spiritual transformation

In its weekly worship, PIC expresses its commitment to the transformation of human consciousness. We come together to celebrate the sacred in our lives and our world. We open our hearts to listen for truth and for beauty. We receive and offer to each other the peace of Jesus Christ, and begin again to live the Christ-story. We share the feast of abundance, to which all are invited and from which none are ever turned away. And having rehearsed the wisdom way to renewing the earth – appreciating and opening, listening, receiving and sharing – we go into the world with courage to live it.