



Cross-Cultural Ministry & Music Ministry

1. Cross-Cultural Ministry

Montage Bible Church's Mission Statement has been:

“Helping People from all cultures learn about God, live for God and love like God.”

Cross-Cultural Ministry or multi-ethnic ministry, has been at the heart of MBC since its founding in 2016. This is an area of emphasis that we, very intentionally, continue to practice. Our cultural milieu in suburban Seattle is quite diverse in culture, ethnicity, and, increasingly, religion. The high-tech industry has attracted newcomers from all over the world. Our area is a robust mix of young and old, singles and families. Our heart's desire is for all of these communities to be reached with the Word of God. We long for the church to bear witness to the power of the Holy Spirit to unite diverse people in praise and worship to the glory of God.

Cross-cultural ministry does not simply occur within a congregation. It will generally gravitate in a specific direction based on the dominant culture, therein. Philosophically, MBC has taken the view that Heaven will be a place of all nations. One simple way that we plainly and intentionally express this is through the very practical vehicle of music ministry. As a church, we continue to be quite intentional in our cross-cultural ministry approach.

2. Music Ministry/Worship: Service, Vision, Model, Worship Leaders, Music, Sources, Modern Worship Music Movements

While the **Sunday service** at MBC has some typical church elements to it, there are also aspects of it which are unique and quite “Non-Denominational”. If one has visited a diversity of churches, one will encounter some of that variety, with us. One of these most visible unique features is our music ministry.

The **MBC Vision** for music ministry has always been quite simple: To bring to each service, compelling musical skill and excellence, to effectively facilitate, for our congregation, the bringing of glory to the Lord, through our corporate demonstration of worship of Him.

3. Our Worship Model - There are many models for worship, in contemporary churches. Our general Montage approach is an ancient temple/tabernacle model. As with the tabernacle of old, there are the outer courts where the saints come to worship and praise with jubilee, with loud instruments and singing, “making a joyful noise unto the Lord.” They express the joy of their Salvation, using a more jubilant, more upbeat, musical approach, as the vehicle. As the saints move toward the inner courts and then “the holy of holies”—now accessible to all believers—there is an intimacy and communion with Him wherein we “bow down” and simply come—contrite, broken and recognizing our complete need and dependence on Him for our Salvation. Here, a more somber

musical approach is used. We move, musically, to a slower, softer musical approach, in the spirit and environment of reverent adoration and worship.

4. *Worship Leaders* – The function, purpose and heart of the worship leader is vitally important to the corporate worship service. Every Sunday, he or she ministers the Gospel message through the language of music. MBC sees fit to invest in the employment of skilled worship arts ministers who will lead our teams with the skill and heart of worship.

What our Worship Leaders do, first, is look into the forth coming sermon direction, that is, specific Scripture references as well as sermon notes and topical direction. We study and pray on these, looking for the Holy Spirit to provide specific song and musical direction for the Sunday service.

As a congregation, we are multi-generational, ethnically diverse, socio-economically diverse, even Spiritually diverse, in a sense too, as we are a non-denominational congregation with a range of church backgrounds in our midst. The selecting of music for this diversity is not a simple juggle. The only way to do it is to let go of any attempt to satisfy everyone. We must put in the time with the Lord and the Art of Worship and leave it all up to the Lord to do with it as He pleases.

5. *Music* – Our Sunday music ministry worship teams will commonly consist of contemporary singing and instrumentation (singing, piano/keys, guitar, bass, and drums). This arrangement allows many within our congregation who possess artistic talent and ability, to serve and contribute to MBC in a very crucial and meaningful ministry. We utilize a unique, quite broad musical genre base, which has basis in our “Cross-Cultural Ministry” philosophy and approach.

On any given Sunday, our teams may borrow from a wide range of musical cultures from Contemporary Christian, Liturgical, Classic Hymns and Songs, Neo Hymns, Black-Gospel traditional and contemporary, Southern-Gospel traditional and contemporary. With all of that, we favor congregational singing as well as some solo oriented singing. We definitely seek to have more participants and less spectators, as we worship.

6. *Musical Sources* –

MBC uses songs, for praise and worship, that are lyrically God-glorifying, theologically and doctrinally sound, and musically compelling. We have chosen not to ban certain music based on its source or brand, as we recognize that, as with all people, those who create worship-art have personal baggage—all of them. This is not new nor novel. It is as timeless as all of humanity. Just as with the writers of our sacred Scripture, the creators of God’s music also have their faults.

Throughout the centuries, God has proven to mankind that He is fully capable of using broken men and women to glorify Himself. Broken flesh, in the hands of our almighty God, can be used to create God-glorifying art which worships Him and inspires all of us to do so.

8. *In Conclusion*

Worship Music is a vast field. Yet music is definitely very specific to the individual. MBC has built a unique worship approach wherein we attempt to live out our mission statement to

“Help People from all cultures learn about God, live for God and love like God.”