

FIRST TIME GUEST?

No problem.

We want you to be
comfortable
and able to
**enjoy your experience
at Miracle Valley.**

This page is provided to help alleviate the jitters of entering unknown territory.

Check out the information and, if you still hesitate for fear of the unknown,
[go to our website's contact page](#) and [call](#) or [email](#) us.

What's so special about church?

Being a Christian (*having Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our lives*) brings great change. *Jesus* gives *hope* and *life beyond description*. In **St. John 10:10** Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Jesus has come to give people *true life* through a *personal relationship with Him*. This means that an individual can live life day-to-day routinely; or, *they can live life with enthusiasm and expectancy* (more abundantly) – even in the midst of struggles and problems.

Therefore, at *Miracle Valley*, people are encouraged to have this personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to live life according to HIS plan for them.

Having a personal relationship with Jesus means that *we worship Him*. We can (and should) worship in all places, at all times. However, the church is the place where we gather together just for that very purpose. As we gather for united worship, there are many other benefits: hearing the Gospel Message through God's anointed minister; fellowshiping with others of the same faith; having others to agree with us in prayer for specific needs; the assurance that we don't have to go through life alone, but that there are other faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord who can encourage us along the way; etc.

So, church attendance is very, very important. Those who are faithful and sincere in their church attendance find that it makes their life better.

Would I "fit in" at your church?

The church is *the place where believers come together to worship God*. **The focus is on "GOD", not on any individual.** Whatever is done should always be done primarily *for the purpose of glorifying God*.

Attending church is **not** about "*being good enough*" or "*having it all together*". Church is the place to go when you need answers, when you need to reach God. **NOONE** could **EVER** get "**good enough**" to go to church or to come to God. It is God who comes into our lives and helps us. **Without Him, we are nothing.**

So – got problems? Come to church! Need to figure things out? Come to church! Got a messed up life? Come to church. Lonely and need a friend? Find a friend at church! Just like a hospital is for the sick – so the church is for anyone – and everyone – who wants to be better. It's where you can find Jesus – the answer to your "mess ups".

Or, maybe your life is going pretty good at this point. Come to church anyway. You will find joy and peace as you truly worship God and fellowship with other believers.

Where should I park?

Great question! The parking lot is on 3 sides of the building. However, the main entrance to the church is on the east side (the double glass doors). Therefore, you may want to park closer to that area.

What if I don't have transportation?



No problem! We have several buses for this purpose. We even have a couple of handicap-accessible buses. Nearly every Sunday, we transport individuals who are confined to wheelchairs.

So, just go to our website's **Contact Page** and give us a call. Do try to call **at least 2 – 2 ½ hours prior to that particular service** in order to be assured that your name is on the list before the drivers leave.

What should I wear?

God's Word teaches **modesty**. Therefore, we encourage **modesty**.

Men wear pants and shirts. Ladies wear dresses, or pants and tops. Some dress very casually, while others wish to "dress up". Some will wear jewelry while others may prefer a minimum of jewelry – if any. It's all according to your personal preference.

How early should I arrive?

At least 15-25 minutes before service time would be good. This will provide time for you to "get your bearings", i.e., decide where you want to sit, locate the bathrooms, and locate the nursery and classrooms if you have children.



If you do arrive after the service starts, people may be *standing* in worship, which may make it difficult for you to see which seats are empty. If that's the case, there are usually a couple of Guest Management personnel standing by the double doors to the sanctuary waiting to assist you in finding a seat.

How long do the services last?

On **Sundays**, the **first service** starts at **8am** and usually **concludes around 9:10am**.

The **second service** starts at **10:30am** and usually **concludes between noon and 12:15pm**.

The **evening service** starts at **6pm** and **lasts about an hour** – sometimes just a bit longer.

Wednesday Family night starts at **7pm**, and **concludes at 8:15pm**.

What can I expect in a Sunday morning service?

Variety.

You will find that **Miracle Valley Church** is definitely not dull or boring. Our people are very friendly – more like a big, happy family – just getting together to worship God. You don't need to be embarrassed nor feel intimidated. Just find an empty seat and enjoy the service.

God sees and knows the heart of every individual. Therefore, none can judge another in their worship of God. So, there is no need for you to feel "out of place" in any way.

You will find fellowship, laughter, joy, companionship, worship, encouragement, and possibly some tears. You may be challenged in the way you live. This is all part of *abundant life*.

Music.

You will find lots of music. Remember, Jesus gives us abundant life. Therefore, we enjoy music that glorifies HIM. We usually start the service with it, as well as end with it – piano, drums, acoustical guitars, bass guitars, flutes, etc., in any combination.

We may sing traditional hymns, hand-clapping gospel songs, or reverent, worshipful choruses.

We will sing as a group, sometimes sitting, sometimes standing. There may be solos, duets, or instrumentals. These are not "performances"; they are part of our *worship of God*.



Worship Experience.

If we are living life through Jesus in an enthusiastic manner, then our worship will be genuine, enthusiastic, and heartfelt. So, instead of just *singing the songs*, we invite people to think about what they are singing and, through the songs, **truly worship the God of the Bible** with spontaneous expressions of love and adoration to God. As we worship, you may encounter variety.

Some may shout for joy, while others may be tender and openly emotional.

Some people will raise their hands, while others may bow their head in silent prayer.

Some individuals may sing very exuberantly, while others may worship quietly.

Some will stand as they worship; others will sit in their seat.

At times, we may slow down and quietly wait before the Lord, completely enjoying His sacred presence. Other times may be filled with rather loud collective praise.

However, even though there is excitement and spontaneity, there is order and proper conduct.

How you worship is your preference. Remember, God looks at the heart.



Prayer.



Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. Therefore, you will encounter prayers from the platform, when all will join together as one in praying.

Also, during the worship, the worship leader will call for the **Prayer Team**. **Designated and trained individuals** will proceed to the altar area (the floor around the platform) and spread out across the front. Then, anyone who has a special prayer need can simply step away from his/her seat and go to one of these individuals and tell them the need (or, if they would rather not divulge information, simply say “I just need prayer”). The Prayer member will then sincerely pray for that individual, after which he/she simply returns to their seat.

Ministry to the sick and hurting.

Throughout The New Testament we find prayers offered for sick and/or hurting individuals. Sometimes the sickness is physical, while at other times it may be emotional pain, financial struggles, discouragement, spiritual battles, or family/relationship issues – any number of things. Whatever the problem, Jesus cares and wants to minister healing and help.

James 5:13-15 tells us that if any has a problem, they should call for the elders of the church to anoint them with oil and pray over them. Therefore, this is a practice you will find at Miracle Valley. So, if YOU need someone to pray for you, feel free to request it. We desire to minister to your needs.

Giving.

During the service, we worship through giving of our tithes (the first 10% of our income, which already belongs to God according to **Malachi 3:8-12**) and offerings. Yes, this is definitely a part of worship. By giving back to God, we declare that God comes first, recognize His blessings to us, express our faith in Him, and seek His guidance in every area of our lives.

These funds are used for the purpose of carrying on with the ministry, supporting Missions efforts at home and abroad, and for the funding and upkeep of the church building and property.



Spiritual Gifts.

In **I Corinthians 12 -14** there is teaching about spiritual gifts. At times, the service may be suspended momentarily as an individual speaks something that is prompted by The Holy Spirit, under the supervision of the pastor. This message may be spoken in an unfamiliar language (a language guided by The Holy Spirit). Another person (or possibly that same person) will then give the **Holy Spirit guided** interpretation of the message.

At other times, the message may be a prophecy in the language of the congregation.

These gifts (the gift of speaking in tongues, the gift of interpretation of tongues, and the gift of prophecy), as well as other spiritual gifts, serve to confirm Bible truths and bring the church immediate challenge.

Child Care and Classes.



Following the **worship** part of the service, children, ages 13 and younger, will be invited to attend Sunday School while the remainder of the people stay in the sanctuary for the **Pastor's sermon**. If, for some reason, you prefer to keep your child/children with you, that is not a problem. During this time, nursery is offered for babies 6 months old – 4 years.

Children who have learned to enjoy being in church tend to continue enjoying it as adults. Therefore, we encourage parents to bring their children to church. It is not likely, however, that a tiny baby will stay totally quiet throughout a church service. No problem! Normal “baby noises” are expected.

However, should your baby/child be quite discontent, we have a “Cry Room” located to the right (as you stand in the foyer) of the double doors to the sanctuary. It has a speaker for you to continue hearing the service, as well as a glass window through which you can see the service. Here, you may proceed to train your child to sit quietly and listen. Mothers who *nurse* their babies may also use this room.

Challenging Message.

At this point, the service is nearing the end. The pastor will preach a **sermon** – a message from God’s Word, **The Holy Bible**. These messages are fervent, practical, informative, inspiring, and challenging. He will present a scripture from God’s Word and then elaborate on it from various viewpoints – all of which will help the listener to better understand the Biblical passage, as well as get an idea of how he/she can apply it to his/her life.

As he nears the end, the pastor will give an “**Altar Call**” – an “**invitation**” for individuals to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Those who feel a need to rededicate their lives to Christ, or to pray about other concerns, are also invited to come. The individual(s) is/are invited to go to the “altar” (the area around the platform), and kneel in prayer. If he or she wishes to pray privately, that is fine. If they wish to have someone pray with them, there are ministers available and ready.



Also, those who have already accepted Jesus as their Savior are urged to ask God for the **Baptism in The Holy Spirit**. This is a supernatural experience that provides deeper power to live for Jesus and serve Him in His purposes.

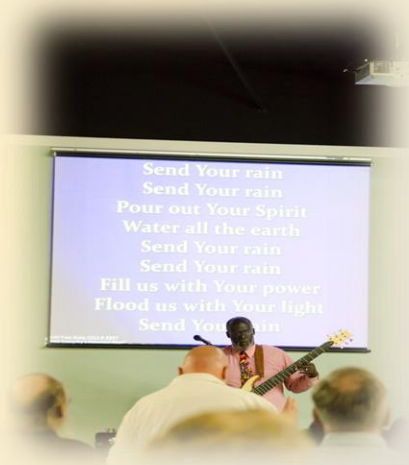
Sometimes, EVERYONE may be INVITED (not forced) to come and pray around the altar.

Usually, everyone who calls on God, in faith, receives **something** from Him. Therefore, during the altar time, there may be displays of genuine and deep emotion or excitement.



Whenever you choose to come, just know that **you are welcome**. Any race or nationality. No matter your “hang-ups”. No problem is too big for God!!! **We want you here!!!**

And, if you feel something within your own spirit – never fear. This is absolutely normal. Why? Because Jesus wants to meet YOU where YOU are. We hope you will respond to Him and allow Him to meet your need. The comfort, hope, and strength that He gives are much better experienced than explained.



So, when you visit Miracle Valley we hope you will ...

- experience a personal, uplifting worship time,
- experience Godly fellowship and feel welcomed,
- receive God’s Word into your heart,
- leave with renewed hope and vitality for life,
- and have a desire to return SOON!



*And remember, you may contact us from the “**Contact Us**” page of our website at any time if you would like more information.*