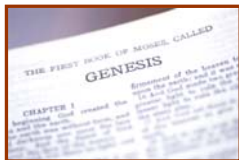


Greetings! Thanks for visiting us at the Church of Christ. We want you to feel comfortable, so let us tell you what you can expect when you honor us with a visit.

Background

Our background may help you understand us. Our goal is to restore the New Testament church in our time. We attempt to determine from the Bible what the church was like in the beginning and to be like that original church as much as possible. We believe this is a worthy goal.



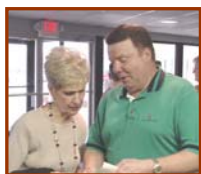
We strive to be a non-denominational, Bible-centered church. We know our conclusions aren't flawless and that our practices are sometimes colored by habit, preference, tradition or convenience. Even so, we hold the Bible as our only guide in religious matters.

Now, let us walk you through a typical worship service.

If you have visited another Church of Christ, you may notice some variations from this description because every Church of Christ is autonomous (self-ruled, independent). We are not associated with any denomination or organized religious group.

Setting

We meet at 505 E Kenosha Street, just west of Lynn Lane on North 4th Street. From our foyer you will enter what we refer to as the "auditorium," where you will find rows of pews for the worshippers. There are no reserved seats, so feel free to sit anywhere you choose.



Singing

In the bookrack in front of you, there will be a songbook for your use. Some times the words will be on a screen behind the song leader. When the song



number is announced, you may follow the words and music in the song book or from the big screen.

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*. It has its roots in our restoration heritage as 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.¹ We think you'll find the singing meaningful, with everyone being invited to participate.

Praying

Spoken prayers are a large part of our gatherings. We believe in the power of prayer. We often pray for specific needs and requests.



Preaching

Who preaches is not as important as what is preached. Our preacher does not have a special title. He is not referred to as Pastor or Reverend. Most just call him by his first name.

He won't be wearing any special clothing that sets him apart. He is one of us. The reason for this is our belief that all are equal² in the priesthood of believers.

The lesson will likely be from 25 to 35 minutes. We hope you find it refreshing and Bible-centered.

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.

Don't feel ill-at-ease during this invitation. You will not be singled out in anyway. There may be some who respond.

Some may respond for baptism; some to confess sins; some to ask for prayer for a specific need; or some to "identify" or "place membership" with this church.

If anyone responds for baptism, you will witness the baptism during this service. The baptism will be by immersion³ for the remission of sins.⁴

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.⁵

We conclude from this that they did it the first day of every week. And we know from respected historians that in early centuries the Lord's Supper was an every-Sunday commemoration.⁶

During this memorial, plates containing pieces of unleavened bread will be passed throughout the congregation. The bread symbolizes the body of Jesus.⁷ Each participating person will break off a piece of bread and eat it.

Next, trays filled with small cups will be distributed. The cups will contain "fruit of the vine," grape juice, symbolizing the blood of Jesus.⁷ Each participant will drink the contents of one of the cups and return the cup to the tray.

The memorial is for members of the church to remember the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for all mankind.

Offering



Also, if you visit on a Sunday morning containers will be passed to collect the weekly financial offering.⁸

As our guest, you are not expected to make a donation. Feel perfectly comfortable in just passing the collection plate down the row.

What Will Be Expected of You?

Nothing at all! You are welcome to participate. But don't feel obligated. Just observe if that is your choice.

You may be asked to fill out a Guest Card. This simply provides information so the church can contact you to thank you for your visit. Supply the information if you are comfortable doing so.

People



So, what kind of people can you expect to find? Pretty much the entire spectrum; as in any group, we are diverse, coming from varied backgrounds and at different stages of knowledge and spiritual growth.



We don't know everything, but we are learning. We don't do everything right, but we are improving. We don't always treat each other as we should. We haven't arrived -- we're on the journey.



But, you see, we were not brought together by any illusion of our perfection or personal righteousness. We were brought together by our recognition that we are sinners in need of the cleansing blood of Jesus.⁹



We were brought together by a common goal. We want to be God's people, organized and worshipping according to God's plan. We want to be Christ's church.

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 deep to find our failures. But, bottom line, you will find people who love Jesus and love the Bible. We would love for you to join us in our pursuit of Him and His Word.

Notes:

1. *1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12*
2. *Matthew 23:8-12; Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Peter 2:5,9*
3. *Acts 8:35-39; Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12*
4. *Acts 2:38*
5. *Acts 20:7*
6. Neander, Eusebius
7. *1 Corinthians 11:23-25*
8. *1 Corinthians 16:1 and 2*
9. *Mark 2:17; Romans 5:6-9; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:7*

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Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Wednesday Service

7:15 p.m. Bible Classes and Devotional



A publication of
Broken Arrow Church of Christ
505 E Kenosha Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-1922
918.258.9602
www.bacoc.org

Welcome!



What You Can Expect When You Visit



BROKEN ARROW CHURCH OF CHRIST