



---

## The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

---

### Ancient / Future Worship: What Is It Exactly?

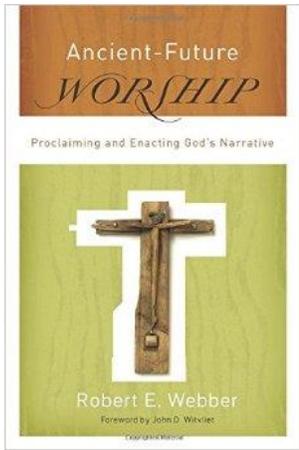
By Mike Potter **Values: Christ the Head, Ancient/Future Worship**



This is the last month of our three-month focus on the spiritual discipline of WORSHIP. One of our core values at Foothills Fellowship is “Ancient/Future Worship.” The way we describe this form of worship (and way of life, might I add) is this: *Because we are a part of the same people of God that has existed from creation (and on through biblical history and church history), we will be rooted in and will learn from the past, both in belief and in practice. This will give substance to our kingdom life and call and will give us something to say in the present and future which will not ring hollow. We will be grounded in the past but always looking forward into the future. As clear (or unclear!) as this definition may be, many of you still ask what exactly we mean by this.*

The phrase “Ancient/Future Worship” was coined by the late Robert Webber, a professor at Northern Seminary in Illinois and the founder and first president of the Institute for Worship Studies. In 1977, he led the call – along with several other evangelical leaders – for churches to recover the fullness of our Christian heritage and worship practices. Known as “The Chicago Call,” the document – among other things – called the church to “confess that we have often lost the fullness of our Christian heritage, too readily assuming that the Scriptures and the Spirit make us independent of the past. In so doing, we have become theologically shallow, spiritually weak, blind to the work of God in others and married to our cultures. Therefore, we call for a recovery of our full Christian heritage.”

This call began a sweeping movement among Protestant churches to root their worship, as the early church did, in God's story and led them to reform their corporate worship practices to embody not the current culture but God's mission; to tell the story of Christ's redemptive work through their worship practices. New (but very ancient) elements were added to their worship services like singing ancient hymns with modern arrangements, kneeling for confession, receiving the assurance of forgiveness through the declaration of God's words about our forgiveness, recovering the practice of the public reading of the Scriptures, engaging in weekly communion, and following the liturgical church calendar by observing events like Advent, Ash Wednesday, and Lent.



In 2007, Robert Webber died, but before he did, he wrote one final book called, "Ancient/Future Worship," in which he made a solid case for the recovery of these practices. Shortly after the book was published, I - along with then associate pastors Jesse Harden and Andrew Streett - began to discuss how to enhance our corporate worship experience, making it more meaningful and more rooted in the story of God's mission of redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ. Along with other resources, we read Webber's book and decided that what he was proposing was just what we were looking for. After discussing this and praying about this with the elders, we began to "reform" our worship service one element at a time over a two-year period, resulting in the rhythm or "liturgy" we have now on Sundays.

It's richness and depth has not only deepened our understanding of God's redemption, but it has also served as a shaping force in our lives, helping us to counteract the many other godless forces in our culture that seek to shape us all week long. Many of you have begun to include these practices in your daily lives as well - which is the ultimate goal of our Ancient/Future worship liturgy: to shape us into daily worshippers who are developing a deeper intimacy with the Lord. In addition to all of this, we have seen our church grow numerically since we started this practice, which I believe is no coincidence. People long for a deeper connection to and intimacy with our Lord, and the way we worship on Sundays helps produce this.

Hopefully, this has helped to better explain the concept of Ancient/Future worship and has helped you see why we are engaging in it each week. I highly recommend that you purchase Webber's book and read it. Not only will it help you understand what (and why) we worship the way we do every Sunday, but it will also give you an expanding understanding of God's holiness and worthiness of our worship. This Christmas break would be a great time to do this!

---

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOAL: **\$35,000** (by Dec. 31)

# CHRISTMAS OFFERING

**\$5,000 WOLF CAR**  
**\$10,000 WOLF SUPPORT NEED**  
**\$20,000 BUILDING RENOVATION PAY-OFF**

**GIVE ONLINE:** Go to: <https://app.easytithe.com/g3>. Click "Christmas Offering 2016."

**GIVE @ WORSHIP SERVICE:** Make a check out to "Foothills Fellowship." On the memo line write "Christmas Offering." **OR** Place cash in a giving envelope (available at the Welcome Center in the foyer) and write "Christmas Offering" on the envelope.

**GIVE VIA MAIL:** Make a check out to "Foothills Fellowship." On the memo line write "Christmas Offering." Then mail it to Foothills Fellowship, 12504 Candelaria Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112.

# Upcoming Events in December

---

THURSDAYS: (1,8,15)

**Walking in the Way (Part 1).** 6:30-8:30PM in Room 102. Explore the way of God, the storyline of the Bible, and representational thinking. Taught by the Briggs and Bannings.

FRIDAYS: (2,9,16)

**Women's Bible Study.** At the church from 10AM-Noon. Nursery will be provided. *Ends November 11.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3:

**Men's Hike.** Meet at the church at 8AM. Contact Shannon Koons @ (303) 416-0579 for details.

**Men's Bicycle Ride.** Meet at the church at 8:30 am. Contact Blake Harden at 238-0798 for details.

**Women's Christmas Tea.** 3-5PM at the church. 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Bring your favorite mug. Last names A-K bring a savory dish, and L-Z bring a sweet treat. Women with home businesses will have display tables before after. Proceeds go to East Central Ministries.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11:

**Mission Minded Prayer Gathering.** 9AM in the Library. Prayer for our missionaries. Led by Victoria Cain.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18:

**Baby Dedications and Church Plant Commissioning** during the service. If you would like to dedicate a child, please email Pastor Mike. [mike@thefoothills.us](mailto:mike@thefoothills.us)

**Communion Meal.** Lunch and communion around the tables immediately following the service in the worship center.

**Annual Budget Meeting.** Following a shortened communion meal. Please submit questions or give your affirmation of the budget prior to the elders. [elders@thefoothills.us](mailto:elders@thefoothills.us)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve Service. 5PM.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE!**

**OUR MISSION:** Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR CORE VALUES:** 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship