

How do we understand worship? Is it a sequence of activities regularly followed such as the liturgy? Has it become so routine we don't even think about what we are saying anymore? Is worship a habit? We started going to worship as a "conscious choice but now it has become a more unconscious pattern where we just go through the motions." Or is worship a ritual? A ritual is a "more meaningful practice that elevates sentiment and can create a sense of purpose and increase motivation. With rituals, you are fully engaged with a focus on the experience of the task, rather than its mere completion." Alisha Verly Jensen [Routines, Rituals, and Habits: Uncovering their Differences \(improvementsavvy.com\)](#) Pastor Sarah Pierce and Pastor Sami Pfalzgraf have created this new worship series to help bring tradition and innovation in worship, together to create a meaningful and holy worship experience. It's a worship experience because, to be fully engaged we have to focus on the experience rather than its completion. It's about the journey not the destination, which of course is goodies and coffee during fellowship time!

Foundational to many Protestant denominations are the three solas: Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone), Sola Fide (By Faith Alone), Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone). In this four-week series, we are focusing on Grace Alone. We give you the liturgy, graphics, worship art suggestions, sermon suggestions and music suggestions. We created the liturgy with the intention of explaining the purpose behind each piece. As stated earlier, a ritual has to be meaningful. When we just go through the motions and don't really think about what we are doing and saying, it becomes a habit or routine instead of a sacred ritual.

Pastor Sarah and Pastor Sami encourage you all to get out of your comfort zones, routines and habits by partnering together. On week two, they encourage you to do a pulpit exchange where pastors preach at each other's churches. On week three, they encourage you to utilize your technology and co-preach. Preach like you are just having a conversation. You can preach live at one church and live stream it at another. If you don't have the software to do this, you can always pre-record the sermon. One church will have the recording while the other can have the sermon live. It's organic, so the sermon will be different every time you preach it, together. Change is very difficult for many churches. Often, when we are uncomfortable with change, we forget to show each other grace. By committing to a pulpit exchange and by co-preaching, we are asking our congregations to show each other and the pastors grace as we try something new. We cannot marry tradition and innovation without being willing to try something new and perhaps even failing. Pastor Sarah and Pastor Sami encourage you to step out in faith and use this series to try something new.