

Concerns about Confession of Sin in the Worship Service

I believe Confession of Sin is an important component of worship in our service. As we have had some problems on the 'roll out' in our church. Let's consider...

1. A better understanding of us all that confession of sin is a vital part of our corporate worship and daily walk. We should know the 1st of the 95 declarations of Luther 500 years ago...

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ``Repent'' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

2. A variety of styles and peoples leading in confession of sin on several Sundays every month – I do not think this needs to be done every week.
3. Stop the current worship format where we ALWAYS do 1 Song then interrupt the music set with men in beards giving confessions.
4. There are many excellent SONGS of confession. Why don't we take the music leaders out to dinner after a service and have a talk about the role of confession in public worship and ask them to come up with appropriate songs? Let's invite all the worship leaders too!
5. Why don't we have the music team incorporate some confession prayers, liturgy, in their music sets? We need to show that women and laity can lead the church in confession!
6. We could simply come to a point in the service and say we want to have sentence prayers of confession, and ask members of the congregation to speak out from their hearts – perhaps before Communion sometimes. But it would be natural for them to give statements of praise and thanksgiving too.
7. As we look through the preaching texts we can see that some of them will point to sin that we especially need to reflect on and confess. (Of course, all the Bible calls us to repent!). On those evenings, we can ask the preacher or the worship leader or the song team to focus a bit on those points of need through appropriate songs, prayers, or even moments of silence.
8. One of the richest modern movements of "confession of sin" has come out of the East African Revival. With Kenyans, Tanzanians, Rwandans, and Ugandans in our midst, we can ask them to teach us some of the fruit of that movement and lead us in prayers of confession.