

**Why We Worship***Experiencing Heaven on Earth at Church*

September 22, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1075-4

Adriel Sanchez is senior minister at North Park Presbyterian Church in San Diego and the host of the Core Christianity podcast with Sola Media. He is the author of *Why We Worship* and *Praying with Jesus*. He has written for Christianity Today, Modern Reformation Magazine, Credo Magazine, and Tabletalk Magazine.

The Antidote to the Emptiness of Secularism

What inspired you to write *Why We Worship*? Why now?

Adriel Sanchez: I was inspired to write *Why We Worship* because I wanted to help Christians understand the beauty and importance of Sunday worship. We live during a time when many are jettisoning the Sunday gathering for other less “formal” avenues of spiritual formation, or they are simply “de-churching” and not replacing gathered worship. I believe that one of the reasons church attendance has been falling over the last several decades is because we’ve lost something of the heavenly transcendence that is meant to attend worship. We need to reeducate along these lines to help stir the imagination and affection of churchgoers so that they’re eager to receive the gifts God gives us on Sundays.

How has your own journey of learning what worship means influenced the book?

Adriel: I started off nominally as a Roman Catholic and then caught “on fire” for Jesus in the broadly evangelical scene. I’ve been a part of small church plants, as well as “megachurches.” Along the way, I’ve wrestled with the question of *why* we do the things we do in worship. Now, as a Presbyterian minister, I’ve grown in my conviction that God cares about *how* he’s worshipped. Sincerity and truth are both key aspects of God honoring worship, but sincerity and truth are not in opposition to grace and beauty. As I’ve investigated the history of Christian liturgy, more and more I’ve wanted to see these important realities come through in contemporary liturgy.

How does worship combat the loss of a sense of transcendency in today’s culture?

Adriel: People are desperate today for meaning and to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Worship according to Scripture is central to what God calls us to as men and women made in his image (meaning), and it unites us to a family that is catholic, or universal, transcending time and culture (it’s bigger than any one of us). For those struggling to find purpose, worship gives them a new perspective on reality that helps them make sense of their lives and the world around them. Because true worship brings us face-to-face with the triune God, it transforms us for eternity. This kind of worship is the antidote to the emptiness of mere secularism.

What is your hope for the book?

Adriel: I hope this book gains a wide readership and brings about revival in biblical worship. For individuals, I’d like the book to get readers excited about going to church and participating in the “heavenly ascent” that I’ve laid out. As they come to have a deeper understanding of the significance behind the various elements of worship, I hope there’s an



Eva Pankratz, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles
epankratz@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



Q & A



Why We Worship
Experiencing Heaven on Earth at Church

September 22, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1075-4

Adriel Sanchez is senior minister at North Park Presbyterian Church in San Diego and the host of the *Core Christianity* podcast with *Sola Media*. He is the author of *Why We Worship* and *Praying with Jesus*. He has written for *Christianity Today*, *Modern Reformation Magazine*, *Credo Magazine*, and *Tabletalk Magazine*.

increase in faith in God and appreciation for their local church. I also hope the book assists churches in thinking about why they do the things they do on a Sunday morning and thereby becomes a benefit to whole churches.

If readers take only one thing away from *Why We Worship*, what do you want it to be?

Adriel: God calls you to worship him together with all the saints (living on earth and in heaven) and the angelic hosts. In this worship, he is the main actor, feeding, washing, and making dead things come alive. There's no place we should rather be than around God's throne with God's people receiving the gifts he is eager to shower upon us.



Eva Pankratz, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles
epankratz@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



BIO



Why We Worship

Experiencing Heaven on Earth at Church

September 22, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1075-4

In Why We Worship, Sanchez delves into the biblical underpinnings and historical development of the core parts of a worship service, casting a vision for corporate worship's vital role in healthy Christian spirituality and discipleship.

Pastor and Podcaster Recovers the Wonder of Worship

Adriel Sanchez is senior minister at North Park Presbyterian Church in San Diego. He was ordained in 2013 after graduating from Westminster Seminary in California.

Adriel is the host of the *Core Christianity* podcast with Sola Media, providing answers to tough questions about the Bible and the Christian life on multiple platforms and helping people experience the comfort of the gospel and gain confidence and wisdom.

He has written for:

- *Christianity Today*,
- The Gospel Coalition,
- Logos,
- *Modern Reformation Magazine*,
- *Credo Magazine*, and
- *Tabletalk Magazine*.

He is the author of *Praying with Jesus: Getting to the Heart of the Lord's Prayer*.

Adriel lives with his wife and six children in Southern California.



Eva Pankratz, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles
epankratz@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media