

Protestant Churchgoer Views On Liturgical Worship

A SURVEY OF 1,200 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway[®] Research

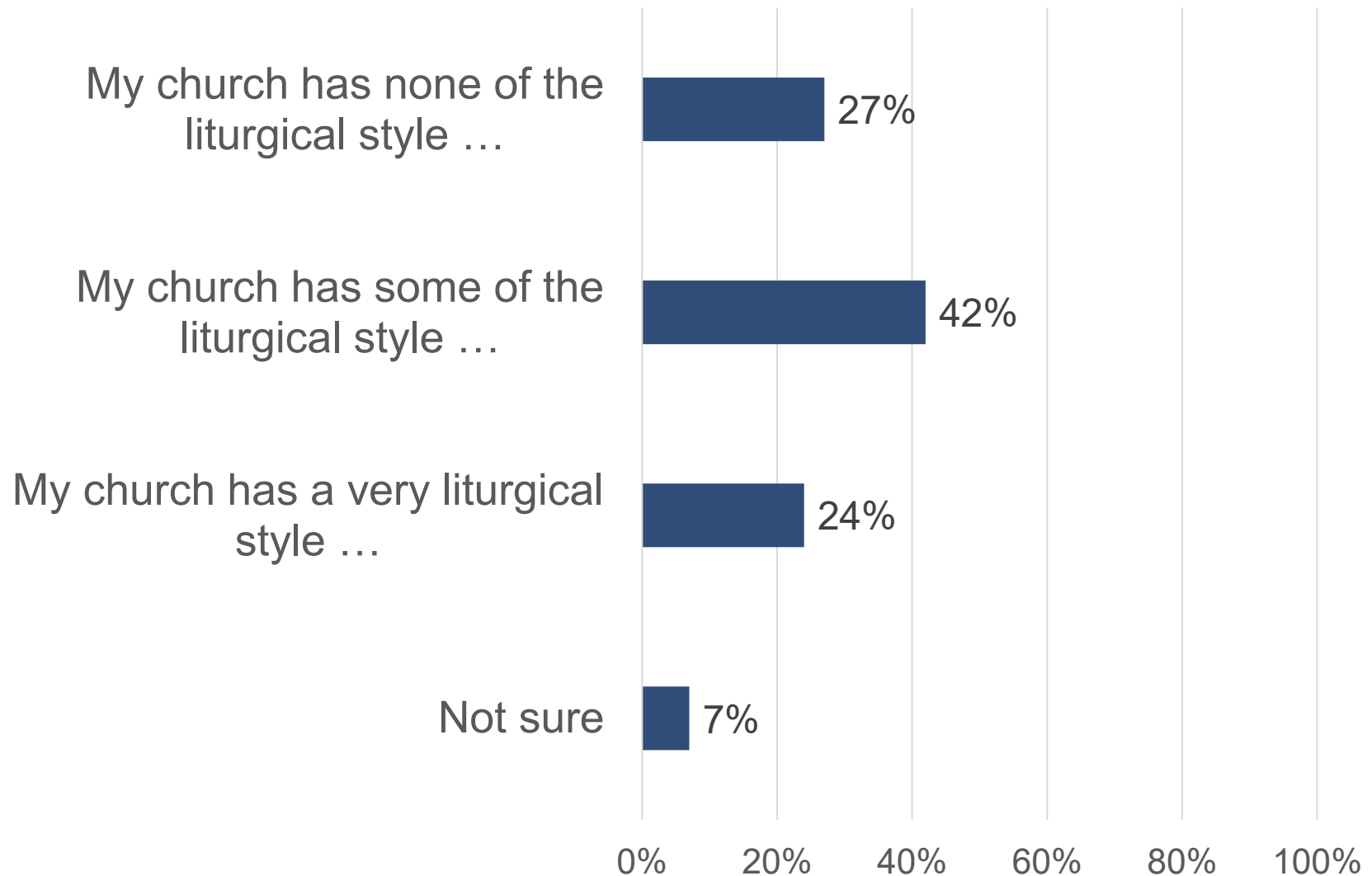
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,200 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 2-7, 2025, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,200 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

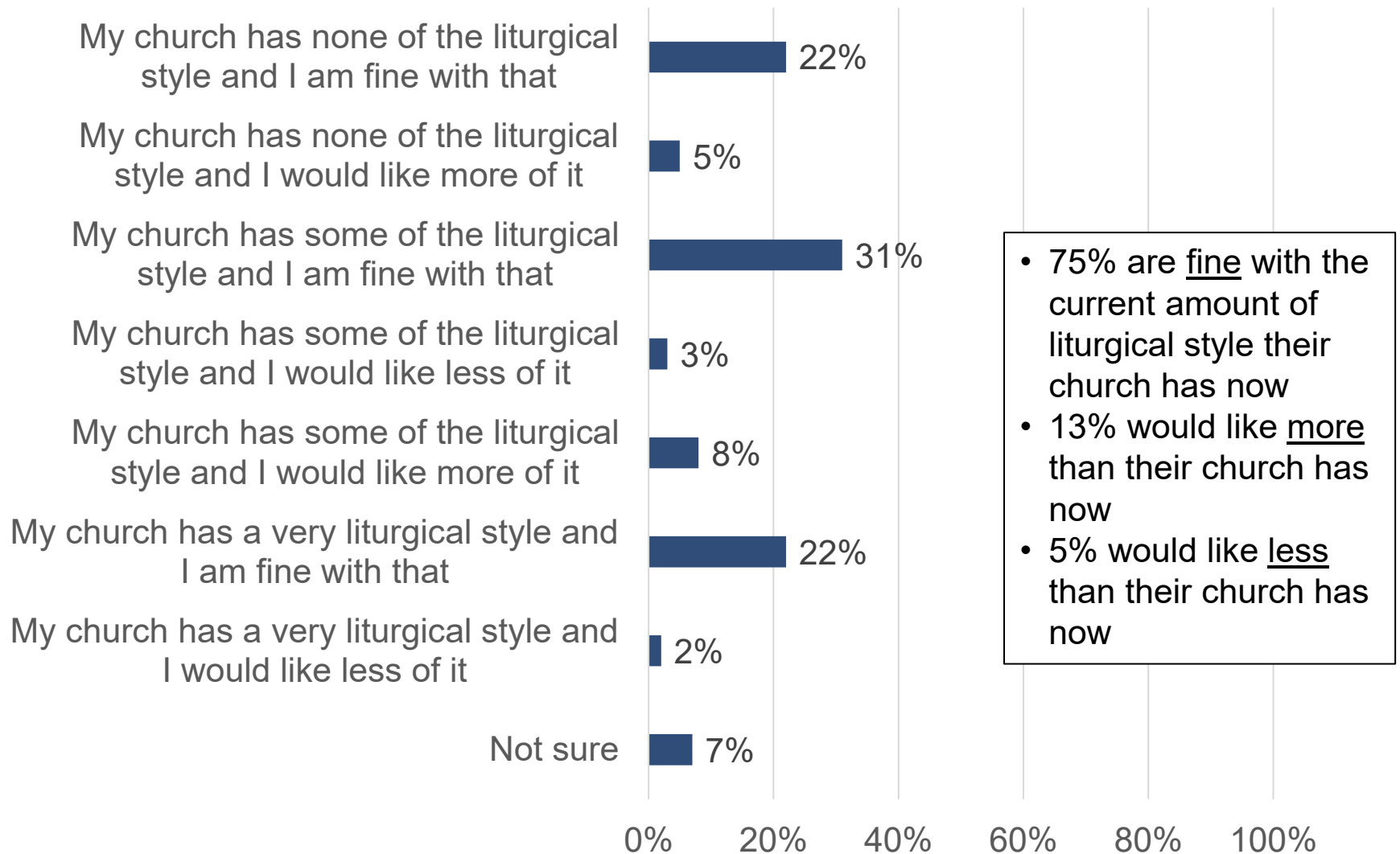
The amount of liturgical style used in worship varies greatly across the churches that churchgoers attend



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Q: "Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music). (Select one)" n=1,200

75% say they are fine with the current amount of liturgical style used in worship at their church



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Q: "Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music). (Select one)" n=1,200

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

Church Size

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-29	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	30-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among denomination, worship service attendance, evangelical beliefs, and church size.

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS	CHURCH SIZE
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes	Less than 50
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No	50-99
Lutheran			100-249
Presbyterian/Reformed			250-499
Christian/Church of Christ			500 or more
Non-denominational			

“Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music).”

Current Use of Liturgical Worship

- Males are more likely to select “My church has a very liturgical style” than females (26% v. 21%)
- Those age 50-64 (22%) and 65+ (29%) are more likely to select “My church has a very liturgical style” than those 18-29 (15%) and 30-49 (24%)
- Those age 18-29 (50%) and 30-49 (48%) are more likely to select “My church has some of the liturgical style” than those 50-64 (41%) and 65+ (35%)
- Other Ethnicities (37%) are more likely to select “My church has none of the liturgical style” than African Americans (21%)
- Those in the Midwest (30%) are more likely to select “My church has a very liturgical style” than those in the South (21%) and West (20%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (28%) or a Graduate Degree (26%) are more likely to select “My church has a very liturgical style” than those who are High School Graduates or less (18%)

“Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music).”

Current Use of Liturgical Worship

- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church has none of the liturgical style” than those without evangelical beliefs (34% v. 19%)
- Non-denominational are the most likely to select “My church has none of the liturgical style” (45%) followed by Baptists (27%)
- Lutherans (56%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (38%) are more likely to select “My church has a very liturgical style” than Baptists (19%), Christian/Church of Christ (15%), and Non-denominational (9%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (47%) are more likely to select “My church has some of the liturgical style” than those who attend 4 or more times a month (39%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (31%) are more likely to select “My church has none of the liturgical style” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (23%)
- Those at a church with attendance of 500 or more are the most likely to say their church as none of the liturgical style (51%)

“Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music).”

Churchgoer Preferences

- Those age 50-64 (80%) and 65+ (77%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than those 18-29 (69%) and 30-49 (69%)
- Those age 18-29 (18%) and 30-49 (19%) are more likely to want more than their current amount of liturgical style than those 50-64 (9%) and 65+ (9%)
- Whites (77%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than African Americans (65%)
- African Americans (19%) are more likely to want more than their current amount of liturgical style than Whites (11%) and Hispanics (10%)
- Those in the Midwest (8%) are more likely to prefer less than their current amount of liturgical style than those in the South (4%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (78%) or a Graduate Degree (78%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than those who are High School Graduates or less (70%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the most likely to be not sure (11%)

“Which of the following best describes your thoughts on the use of a liturgical worship style at your church (a definite structure to the worship service with a set of fixed prayers, readings, and music).”

Churchgoer Preferences

- Non-denominational (79%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than Baptists (71%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (22%) are more likely to want more than their current amount of liturgical style than Methodists (8%), Lutherans (10%), and Non-denominational (9%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (78%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (71%)
- Those at a church with attendance of 500 or more (80%) are more likely to be fine with their current amount of liturgical style than churches of less than 50 (70%)
- Those at a church with attendance of less than 50 are among the most likely to be not sure (12%)

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