

Calvin University

Calvin Digital Commons

---

Symposium on Worship Archive

2011 - "Every Time I Remember You" The Letter  
to the Philippians

---

## "Alleluias" Concentrated: Enabling Expansive Worship in Small Membership Congregations

Paul Detterman

*Presbyterians for Renewal*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium>



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Detterman, Paul, "'Alleluias' Concentrated: Enabling Expansive Worship in Small Membership Congregations" (2023). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 13.

<https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium/2011/allitems/13>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symposium on Worship Archive by an authorized administrator of Calvin Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@calvin.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@calvin.edu).

# Alleluias!! concentrated:

## enabling expansive worship in small membership congregations

**Paul Detterman**

“If we only had / could...” can be too common a phrase in smaller membership congregations. God invites us to worship as we can, not as we can't. This session is designed to equip and encourage even the smallest congregation (or small group within a larger community) to desire and to experience deep, joy-filled worship using everything God has given us and requiring nothing more.

## remembering why Jesus' followers sing when we worship

fulfilling our biblical mandate to sing

offering God-worthy praise

glorifying God beyond words and deeds alone

witnessing to the reality of our faith

connecting the generations

receiving the witness of those who have gone before us

transmitting our faith to those who are following us

## discipling Jesus' followers through singing in worship

(remembering why Jesus' followers sing ... )

discovering the “heart songs”

what gives these hymns/worship songs such meaning?

what faith do these texts express?

connecting the dots—deepening faith and broadening repertoire

catechetical singing

## **liberating**

worship from keys, pipes, circuits, or strings gone wrong

(remembering why Jesus' followers sing ... )

naming the perils of "bad" accompaniment

renouncing Lucifer's love child: accompaniment CDs

exploring alternatives

the **joy** of call and response

the **beauty** of part singing

the **thrill** of unison singing

## **releasing**

God's people to worship and praise

(remembering why Jesus' followers sing ... )

allowing worshipers to hear themselves

nurturing the anticipation of "an experience"

teaching the language of music

challenging worshipers to self-less praise

## **exploring**

a sampling of the almost limitless worship music resources

(remembering why Jesus' followers sing ... )

nurturing long-term relationships—hymns that beg to be sung "just as they are"

permitting second marriages—familiar texts re-trothed to more flexible tunes

going global—discovering what the rest of the world already knows about worship

taking a chance on chants—simply repeating things simply

## **praying**

... and "praying twice"

(remembering why Jesus' followers sing ... )