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Learning to Lead Worship through Mentored Experiences

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Calvin Symposium on Worship 2013

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Thursday, January 24

Learning to Lead Worship through Mentored Experiences

Leading worship is so often a skill learned on the go. Classroom instruction is significant, while a great deal of learning also takes place through regular practice and reflection. We'll explore the ins & outs of learning to plan and lead worship through mentored experiences which develop habits of ongoing learning and growth in worship leadership. Come, both experienced leaders and those learning the nuts & bolts of worship leadership, to an interactive exploration of mentored learning. Hosted by Paul Ryan, with current and former Calvin College Worship Apprentices and friends

10:15-11:15

Introduction

Panel discussion: *The Role of Mentoring in Learning to Lead Worship*
led by Paul Ryan with

Nate Glasper, Jr. (Grace for the Nations Church & Calvin College, Grand Rapids)

Shelly Hendricks (Lynden Christian School, Lynden, WA)

Ryan Struyk (Calvin College student)

Tracie Wiersma (Princeton Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI)

11:15-12:15 Workshops. Choose one.

- "Worship Band Workshop"
Micah & Meredith VanderHill – Chapel Sanctuary
- "Worship Planning"
2012-2013 Worship Apprentices –Chapel Multipurpose Room
- "Learning Worship 101"
Paul Ryan – Chapel Choir Room (214)

12:15-1:30: Lunch Break, cafeteria-style in the Commons Dining Hall

1:30-2:30: Workshops repeated. Choose one from above.

2:30-3:30

Interactive Exercise: What is Worship Most Like?

Participant-Observer Exercise

Worship Band Workshop

Meredith and Micah VanderHill

Three Areas of Mentoring:

1. Congregational Singing and Worship
2. The Worship Team
3. Individual Musicians

Vocals:

Things that Undermine Congregational Singing

1. Too familiar songs will lead to bored worshipers.
2. Unclear instructions will frustrate worshipers
 - a. Imprecise vocal entrance leads to a lag in congregational singing.
 - b. Unique soloist vocal styling detracts from the congregational voice.
 - c. Overusing harmony can disperse the focus of the congregation's melody.
3. Uncomfortable vocal range can fatigue the congregation.

Tips for leading Congregational Singing on a Worship Team:

1. It is important that your singers are worshipers.
2. The worship team singers must be musicians.
3. The singers should have a servant attitude.

Practical Issues for Vocalists

1. Vocal Harmony
2. Number of Vocalists
3. The Lead Vocalist
4. Using Microphones
5. Body Language and Facial Expressions

Musical Inspiration: Hillsong (Great example of Spoken Prompts and clear melody), Chris Tomlin, Country Music has great harmonies (like Lady Antebellum, and Rascal Flats), The Weepies (great two person harmonies)

Arranging a song:

Learn the Song

1. Study the song until you know its unique character
2. Make decisions about the feel (groove and chords, etc...) -
3. Prepare materials for musicians.
4. Know what you want to hear and then spend rehearsal achieving that sound.

Tonal Placement:

1. Give each instrument its own place in the range
2. Use doublings

Dynamics

1. Look at the song in its context of the service- is it an opening song that needs lots of energy? Is it a song that comes out of a prayer? Be true to the song's character, but also let the song do some of the work for you to transition your congregation into each part of the worship service.

Worship Band Workshop: Instrumentalist Chart

	Piano	Drums	Bass	Guitar	Electric Guitar	Auxiliary
Playing Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Don't play the melody. -Playing the rhythm vs. playing chords -Pad synth sounds vs percussive sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On tempo -Hits and fills -Volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fingers - Pick - Slap Bass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Chords - Barre Chords - Capo - Strumming - Picking - Alternate Tunings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power chords - Riffs - Fills - Leads - Effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Melody - Counter melody - Descant (tenor line) - Improvisation vs. Written music
Tips for playing on a worship team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Play less! -Less Left hand -More high range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pair up kick drum with bass -Hear the beat subdivisions -Don't overplay -Fills should be played between singing phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bass is the foundation for the team -Pair with kick drum -Keep the pianist left hand away from bass' turf -Don't overplay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The guitar is a rhythm instrument - Takes up the middle of the sound spectrum - Make use of Pauses - Vary playing techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't play what the acoustic guitarist is playing - Don't point the Amp at a Microphone - Look for ways to accent the music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be Intentional about what you play - Moving notes between vocal phrases. - Long notes during vocal phrases.
Musical Inspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael W Smith - Bruce Hornsby -Keith Emerson (from <i>Emerson, Lake and Palmer</i>) -Billy Preston -Stevie Wonder -Keith Getty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stewart Copeland (From <i>the Police</i>) - Mick Fleetwood (from <i>Fleetwood Mac</i>) - Larry Mullin Jr. (From <i>U2</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul McCartney - Adam Clayton (from <i>U2</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Gungor (from <i>Gungor</i>) - Phil Keaggy - Dave Matthews - Derek Webb (Solo and from <i>Caedmon's Call</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lincoln Brewster - the Edge (from <i>U2</i>) - George Harrison (in <i>The Beatles</i>) - Eric Clapton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sting "The Dream of the Blue Turtles" Sax - Branford Marcellles -Michael W Smith "Worship" Album's Violinist. - Keith and Kristin Getty (Lots of riffs and leads) ⁴

Sing To The King

Words by
Billy Foote and Charles Silvester Horne

Music by
Billy Foote

$\text{♩} = 108$

E

B/E

A/E

E



1. Sing to the King Who is coming to reign.
2. For His re - turn - ing we watch and we pray;

B/E

A/E

E

5



Glo - ry to Je - sus, the Lamb that was slain. Life and sal -
We will be read - y the dawn of that day. We'll join in

B/E

A/E

E

10



-va - tion His em - pire shall bring, and joy to the
sing - ing with all the re-deemed, 'cause Sa - tan is

B/E

A/E

E

E

14



na - tions, when Je - sus is King. Come, let us sing
van - quished and Je - sus is King.

F#m7

19



a song, a song de - clar - ing that we be - long to Je -

A²(no3)

E

D²(no3)

22



- sus; He is all we need.

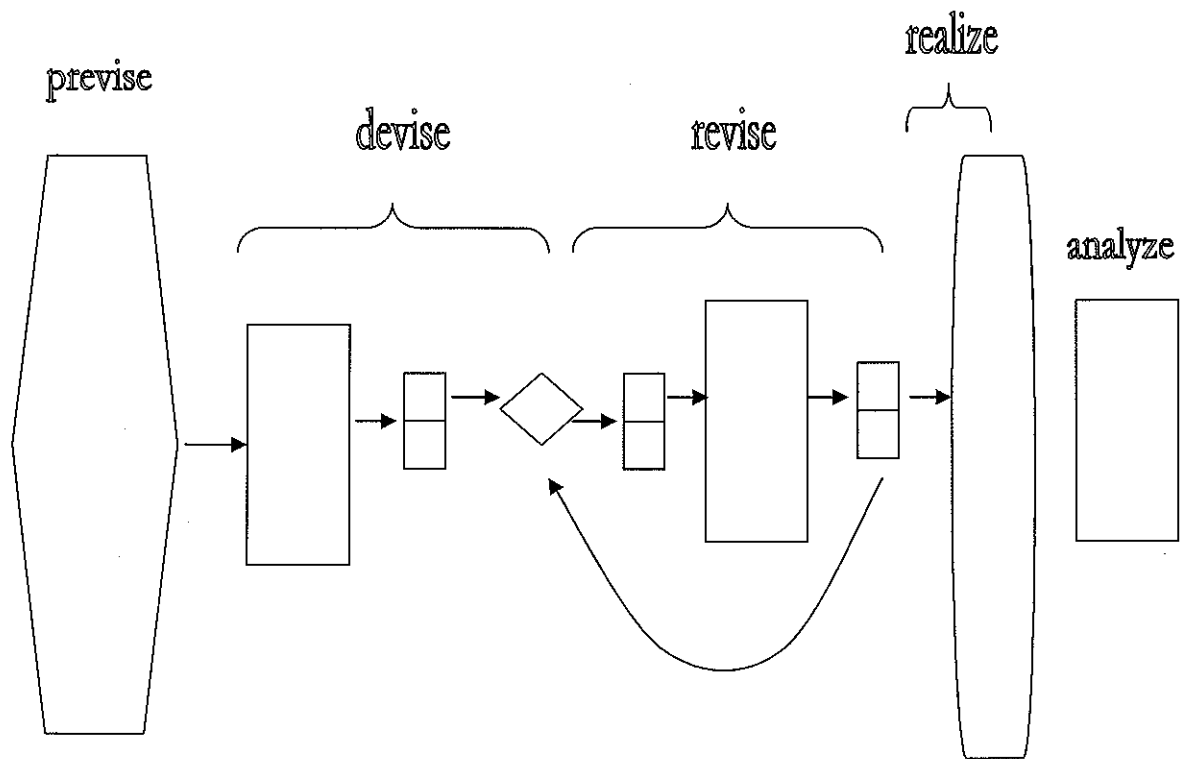
26 E F#m7

Lift up a heart of praise. Sing now with voices raised to Je -

30 A2(no3) E

- sus; Sing to the King.

Worship Planning Process by Ron Rienstra & Paul Ryan



Prewise – Solicit as much input from as broad a group as possible. Brainstorm with an umbrella of grace about themes, songs, drama, art, dance, everything.

Devise – The actual planning of a first draft. Begin to filter for the best ideas. Make use of people with specialized expertise in particular areas (music, art, drama, etc.).

Revise – Make use of both individual and group input to improve service plan.

Realize – Leaders communicate the vision for the service to all participants.

Analyze – Periodically review previous services. Analyze less for technical miscues or taste preferences than for theological content.

II. Sample Planning Agenda

- A. Analyze (5-10 minutes)
- B. Revise (10-15 minutes)
- C. Realize (5-10 minutes)
- D. Devise (20-25 minutes)

Building a Team: Leadership and Administration

- I. *Set up team expectations from the beginning*
 - a. Discuss what is important for maintaining team unity
 - b. Make sure everyone's voice is heard
 - c. Create a Group Covenant
 - i. Include all expectations
 - ii. Have everyone commit to the agreement
 - iii. Make it available for team members to access it
 - iv. Allows for team members to hold each other accountable
 - v. Additional Information and Examples
 1. <http://1groups.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/creating-a-group-covenant.pdf>
 2. http://threadsmedia.com/downloads/Downloads_PDF_GroupCovenant.pdf
 3. http://www.warehouse242.org/downloads/Create_a_Small_Group_Covenant.pdf
- II. *Be in contact often*
 - a. Collect all team members' contact information from the start (phone #, e-mail, etc.)
 - b. Do not wait until the last minute to send out important information
 - i. Send out e-mails early and often
 - ii. Make phone calls or send texts when there is not enough time for e-mail
 - c. Be available and responsive
 - i. Do not neglect to respond to e-mails, phone calls, or texts in a timely fashion
 - ii. Make sure team members know they can contact you if they need to
- III. *Address conflicts directly and quickly*
 - a. When problems arise:
 - i. Do not avoid them
 - ii. Be understanding, preserve relationships and community
 - iii. Always adhere to agreed upon team expectations
 - b. Be prepared for conflicts
 - i. Think in advance about how to handle different situations
 - ii. Seek out resources
 - * *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*
- Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, Sheila Heen

CHOOSING SONGS FOR WORSHIP

Song Diet

Theme	Hymns	Liturgical Folk	"P & W"	World	Gospel	Date
Celebration						
Adoration						
Confession						
Redemption						
Thanksgiving						
Dedication						
Illumination						
Lamentation						
Intercession						

Where to begin?

1. Take into consideration your diet. What songs are you already singing?
2. Analyze your songs according to this grid with your leaders.
 - What types of songs are filling your diet?
 - What types of songs are you missing (where does your diet need balance?)
3. When introducing new songs ask, "Does this song fill a space in my diet?"
 - Notice that this is an easier question to answer than, "Do we *like* this song?"
 - Realistically, a group can only sustain about 200 songs a year, i.e. learn it well enough that authentic expression and real formation can take place.
 - If the song does not fill a new space, does it replace an older song?
4. A balanced song-diet takes place over time.
 - Some people may be able to accept a brand new diet right away.
 - Oftentimes, however, diets change little by little over time.

Song Resources:

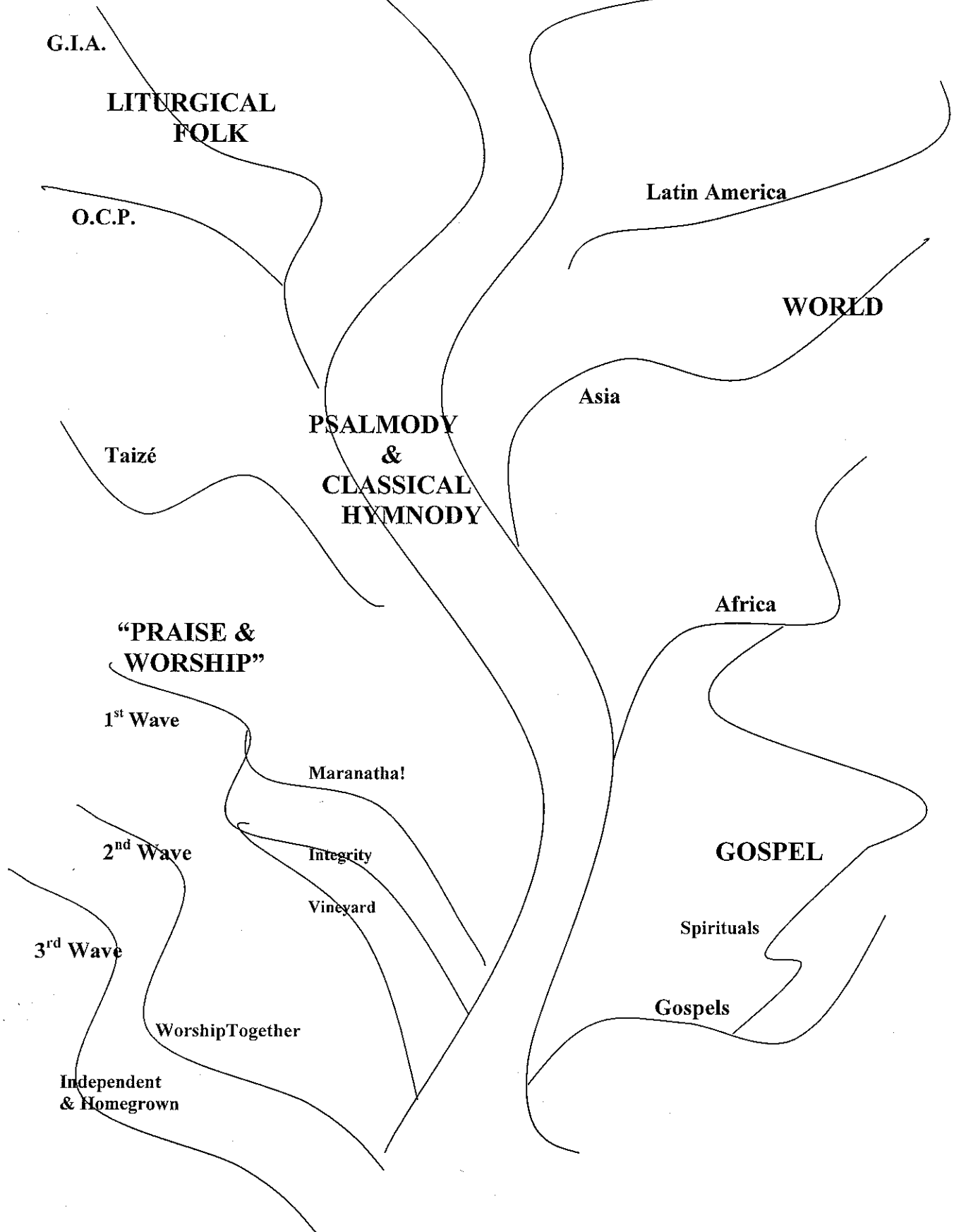
- *Sing! A New Creation*
- *Psalms for All Seasons*
- Psalter Hymnal
- CCLI.com
- *Global Songs for Worship*
- *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Coming in June!)

Balanced Menu of Human Expression

“What human response or need do our songs and hymns provide or fill in our services?” Many songs or hymns can serve a variety of expressions while others are singular in purpose. The responses or needs that songs typically provide or fill within worship are these:

- Celebration: Magnifies the character and acts of God by saying back to God who he is and what he has done. Generally, songs *about* God.
- Examples:* “Lord Most High”, “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”, “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”
- Adoration: Expresses love and desire for God. Intimate language and focus on relationship with God characterize songs of Adoration. Generally, songs *to* God.
- Examples:* “As the Deer”, “I Love You, Lord”, “My Jesus, I Love Thee”
- Confession: Provides words and musical affect that allow the congregation to express their repentance and seek God’s forgiveness and sanctifying grace.
- Examples:* “Create in Me a Clean Heart”, “Give Us Clean Hands”, “God Be Merciful to Me”
- Redemption: Songs that confirm God’s love for us. Songs of Redemption bring us words of healing, help us through the work of the Spirit to cleanse our guilty consciences, and remind of us God’s pardoning grace.
- Examples:* “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”, “Amazing Grace”, “In Christ Alone”
- Thanksgiving: Gives a voice to the congregation to respond to God’s redemption with gratitude. Many songs of Celebration, Adoration, and Redemption will contain a theme of Thanksgiving.
- Examples:* “Give Thanks”, “There is a Redeemer”
- Dedication: A response to God’s word that voices commitment and/or aspiration. These songs also call upon God to help us walk with him in love and faithfulness.
- Examples:* “Be Thou My Vision”, “Take My Life”, “I Surrender All”
- Lamentation: Asks the question of God, “Why?” Lamentation expresses to God that the world and our circumstances are not the way they are supposed to be. Often includes songs about justice.
- Examples:* “Hear Our Prayer”, “I Need Thee Every Hour”, “Good to Me,” “Blessed Be Your Name”
- Intercession: Helps us to voice our petitions to God. Prayer songs also ask God to hear us as we pray.
- Examples:* “Blessed”, “In My Life Lord, Be Glorified,” Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” “Cares Chorus

**“The worship of God’s people
flows on the river of music”**



G.I.A.

LITURGICAL
FOLK

O.C.P.

Taizé

"PRAISE &
WORSHIP"

1st Wave

2nd Wave

3rd Wave

Independent
& Homegrown

PSALMODY
&
CLASSICAL
HYMNODY

Maranatha!

Integrity

Vineyard

WorshipTogether

Latin America

Asia

Africa

WORLD

GOSPEL

Spiritualls

Gospels

Principles for Worship

Worship at Calvin College is...

- **Biblical** – we follow the Bible’s instructions, letting the Word dwell in us richly in readings, prayers, music, and the arts, while highlighting the person & work of Jesus.
- **Covenantal** – our services are a *conversation* between God and us in which we renew the covenant of grace.
- **Trinitarian** – we address a triune God, who invites, perfects, and empowers our whole-hearted devotion.
- **Participative** – worship leaders are not performers, but *enablers*, encouraging the full, conscious, active participation of the congregation (not “audience”).
- **Holistic** –we bring all ourselves to worship: faculty, staff and students, body & soul, brain & heart, doubt & belief, lament & joy.
- **Expansive** – we make creative use of words, music – and more! – from many times, places, peoples, and cultures to enlarge our vision of God’s kingdom, and situate ourselves properly within it.
- **Reverent**– even when playful, our worship acknowledges that it is *God* with whom we deal when we gather together.
- **Spirit-directed** – we are led by the Holy Spirit in form and in freedom, both in prayer-filled planning and in the surprising moments of worship, expecting great things of God.

Preparing Prayers and Spoken Words

What we say and how we pray during worship are very important. Good transitions and prayers enhance the worship while badly prepared transitions and prayers distract and disturb the worship.

A) Transitions – one act of worship to the next

Examples of bad transitions:

“Well I guess that now we have to have the confession of sin.”

“Ok, let’s see what’s next. Well, next we will say the creed.”

“Well, our secretary messed up again, and the song number in the bulletin for this part of the service is wrong.”

Few tips about transitions:

-They must be concise while being clear about the mechanics.

“Next, we state precisely what we believe, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed. These words are printed in your worship folder. If you are visiting with us today, we would be happy to explain the joy we have because of these statement. Simply ask one of the greeters at the door at the end of the service.”

-They show how the two acts of worship are related.

“The sermon ended with a call to confession. Our song of response enables us to do just that.”

-They are generally warm and inviting.

“Welcome to our worship service this morning. I invite you to rise and join us in singing our first song.”

Where possible, they may contain the lines from the next order or service that could be highlighted.

... sing *“This is my father’s world”* – [*This is my father’s world: Why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad.*]

“Our God is indeed the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Therefore, we do not have to worry because God is in control of all things; all we have to is to carry everything to him in prayer.”

... sing *“What a friend we have in Jesus”*

B) Prayers

Example of a spontaneous and unorganized prayer (just, um, like, you know, etc in the prayer)

"Dear God, please be with um, Kate and um, her family... as her grandfather is very sick and has like, some kind of fatal disease. And this can be um, you know, heartbreaking and sad. So please be with them... and heal her grandfather so that he will be able to, like, be healthy and live longer. In Jesus' name. Amen"

Consider the collect form of prayer.

- 1. Address** – there are numerous names for God in the bible. Explore and use these names for God creatively. Ex) Lamb of God, Wonderful Counselor, Alpha and Omega, Master, God our healer, Light of the World
- 2. Attribute** – recognize God's actions for which we give praise and thanks. Ex)"You alone can bring healing." "You lead your people by fire and cloud." "You send your Holy Spirit to empower the church." "You anointed Jesus your Son with your Spirit at his baptism."
- 3. Petition** – present our requests to God. Ex)"Please grant wisdom to the elders of the church." "We pray for healing over Kate's grandfather". "We ask that you will cleanse us with the blood of the Lamb."
- 4. Result** – explain the result or purpose for the petition. Ex) ". . .so that we will see your glory." ". . .so that we will be salt and light of the world." ". . .that they will accept you and be saved." ". . . that they will learn more about worship and worship you better."

Examples of collect prayer:

"Almighty and sovereign God, you sustain those who are struggling and heal those who are ill, just like you healed the Israelite centurion's servant in the Bible. I pray for healing upon Kate's grandfather, so that Kate and her family will see your power and sovereignty. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen."

"Shepherd God, you led and guided Abraham out of his home into a better place and sustained him faithfully and graciously. Please guide Mary as she applies to various colleges and tries to decide which school to go so that she will receive a fitting education that will prepare her to be used by you. In the name of our Lord who gives all good things. Amen."

"Holy Spirit, you empowered Jesus' disciples two thousand years ago to spread the good news. We pray as a community for the mission team as they leave to Peru for two weeks in order to serve and minister to the people in that country. Enrich them with love, gentleness, and boldness as they work to expand God's kingdom. In the name of the Son, Amen."

Refer to the section on "Extemporaneous prayers" in The Worship Sourcebook by Emily Brink and John D. Witvliet, published by Faith Alive, 2013.

Worship is *Biblical*

Directions:

1. Break up into 2 groups of 3
2. Assign a leader, a scribe, and a reporter
3. Read together 2 Samuel 6:1-19
4. Answer the following questions:

Basic context

- a. How did David transport the ark the first time? (v. 3)
- b. Was this according to God's instructions (see Ex. 25:12-15)?
- c. How did God respond when Uzzah touched the ark? (v. 7)
- d. What was David's response (v. 8-9)
- e. How did David transport the ark the second time? (v. 12-15)
- f. What else did David do to celebrate the coming of the ark? (v. 17-19)

Reflection

- g. According to this story, what might it mean for worship to be *Biblical*?
- h. What are some descriptive adjectives you might use to describe the worship of God in this story?
- i. What practices of worship do we have today that these adjectives might describe?

Worship is *Biblical*

Prayer of Confession

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

The First Place

Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker, of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes every throne knows you are God.

*Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.*

Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
First-born, you've shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim:

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Branch, Stump of Jesse by Elizabeth Steele Halstead

Isaiah 11:1-2

Col 1:15-20

Psalms 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV

1. What relationship do you notice between these three pieces for worship and these three scripture passages?
2. In addition to following God's instructions about worship, what else might it mean for us to plan worship that is *Biblical*?
3. What are other examples of songs, prayers, drama, visual arts, etc. that are *Biblical*?

Learning to Lead through Mentored Experiences
Closing Worship

Actions	Elements	Instructions	Leader
Call to Worship	Psalm 148:1-5a		Allie
Praise	<p>“All Creatures of Our God and King” (D)</p> <p>“God of Wonders” (G)</p> <p>Prayer of Adoration</p>	<p>V1 V2 V3 V4</p> <p>V1 C V2 C Bridge (3X) C</p>	Tyler
Confession	<p>Call to Confession (based on OWBTG st. 10)</p> <p>“Perdón Señor” (Dm) {SNC 59}</p>	<p>-continue music underneath prayer with piano.</p> <p>-Continue to play softly with piano.</p> <p>-Invite all to kneel at the conclusion of the call.</p> <p>4 verses</p> <p>-End song w/ silence. Let it hang for a moment.</p>	Tyler
Redemption	Words of Assurance: Romans 8:1-2	<p>-Out of the silence light piano begins.</p> <p>-Words of assurance</p> <p>-invite all to stand.</p> <p>V C V C</p>	Jocelyn
Proclamation	Romans 8:18-27	<p>-all are seated.</p> <p>-black slide</p>	Christian
Lament	Visual Prayer	<p>-in response to the groaning in Romans...</p> <p>-meditate on projected images and words of lament</p> <p>-4 seconds per slide</p> <p>-piano plays lightly underneath (simple chord progression)</p>	
Proclamation	Romans 8:28-39	<p>-Light piano playing underneath leading to “In Christ Alone”</p> <p>-black slide</p>	Christian
Declaration of Faith	“In Christ Alone” (D)	<p>-Invite all to stand</p> <p>V1 V2 V3 V4</p>	
Sending	Jude 24-25	<p>- Hear this blessing from Jude 24 & 25. include words: “when you go from here, go in confidence and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	Jocelyn