

CHAIRPERSONS & MUSICIANS WORKSHOP

2 6 M A Y 2 0 1 3

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PURPOSE

- New chairpersons for worship service and prayer meeting
- Refresher for existing chairpersons
- Improve coordination between musician and chairperson/worshiper
- Principles for public worship

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OBJECTIVES

- Principles for Public Worship
- Mechanics for Chairpersons
- Order of Worship
- Mechanics for Musicians

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PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

- All of Life Worship Versus Public and Formal Worship
 - Our lives are lived out in worship to God - national celebration, war, harvest, vocation, hobbies, leisure, etc.
 - Formal and public worship of God - regulated.

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PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

⊗ Old Testament Complexity Versus New Testament Simplicity

- ✦ OT worship - visual, pomp, ritual, professional.
- ✦ NT worship - verbal, simple, a-professional.
- ✦ “Everything about our worship is to be simple. Nothing is to be clever. Nothing is to draw attention to the learning, the wisdom, the sophistication, the beauty, [or] the complexity of the medium.” ~ Terry Johnson

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PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

⊗ Medieval Estheticism Versus Reformed Asceticism

- ✦ ME: God loves beauty in worship - visual and aural - “Thrilling music, clever arrangements, brilliant instrumentalism and fine singing.
- ✦ RA: Beauty to God is found in holiness - worshipful experience cannot be achieved by things beautiful to the eyes and ears, but mind and spirit.

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PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

⊗ Worshipful Enhancement Versus Musical Assistance

- ✦ Instruments are a circumstance in worship and not an element. They cannot enhance worship.
- ✦ Instruments support worship by helping worshipers focus on the words. When done with that intention, they support worship.

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PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

⊗ Applying the Principles

- ✦ Simple and understandable reading
- ✦ Biblically worded prayer
- ✦ Earnest singing
- ✦ Simple accompaniment
- ✦ Place for artistic beauty and expertise

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MECHANICS FOR CHAIRPERSONS

- Spiritual preparation
 - Pray for the worship service
 - Understand each part of the service
- Early preparation
 - By Tuesday or Wednesday
 - For the pianist's sake!!

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MECHANICS FOR CHAIRPERSONS

- Competence
 - Know/learn how to sing the hymn chosen, people to know how to sing the hymn chosen. Sing with understanding, know the theme/mood/tempo of the hymn. Know the entrance for the hymn.
 - Pray extemporaneously, with freshness, and doctrinal accuracy.
 - Know how to pronounce the words in the readings, especially names.

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MECHANICS FOR CHAIRPERSONS

- Choosing Hymns
 - Choose songs with scriptural content & music that complement & reinforce the main theme of the message or the specific part of the worship service.
 - Start with familiar songs. Avoid the same songs unless you have a purpose for it.
 - Decide in advance how many stanzas, and which stanzas should be sung.

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MECHANICS FOR CHAIRPERSONS

- Choosing Hymns
 - Objective hymns - sing about God, his person, his truth, his way with us. Factual. "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken." "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."
 - Subjective hymns - sing about us, our moods, our feelings, our aspirations, our response. Feeling. "O that Will Be Glory for Me." "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross."

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MECHANICS FOR CHAIRPERSONS

• Presence

- Warmth, not officious.

• Volume

- Speak deliberately - speak in order to be heard and you speak in order to be understood.
- Project and sing with singing voice.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Prelude

- Hymns played to prepare the hearts of the worshipers. Known and familiar hymns.

• Call to Worship

- Signifies the start of the worship service.
- A few verses of Scripture calling the worshipers to worship the Lord.
- For suggested calls to worship see Great Hymns of the Faith, page 491.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Opening Hymn

- Always an objective hymn of praise and worship (GHF 1-82).

• Opening Prayer / Invocation

- Praise and adoration
- Thanksgiving for privilege to worship
- Request for God's blessings upon the people
- SHORT!!!!!! In Jesus' Name.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Gloria Patri

- Ancient creedal hymn.
- Sung as a doxology and affirmation of our worship of the Triune God.

• Responsive Reading

- Usually a Psalm (for now). Take note of "Psalm."
- A passage relevant to the message theme.
- Depending on the length, it can be read in unison.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Second Hymn

- A response to the responsive reading. Can be objective or subjective.

• Hymns during the Lord's Supper

- First hymn can be objective or subjective
- Second hymn should be subjective.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

- Musician to play a known hymn. Keep it simple.

• Doxology and Offertory Prayer

- The offertory prayer should be short and to the point. There is no need to make it long and to bring in many unrelated things.
- A word about incidentals. People generally know what is coming next.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Scripture Reading

- Usually the passage on which the sermon will be based.
- Read with understanding, with proper expression and accentuation, and pauses.

• Preparatory Hymn

- Usually a hymn dealing with the Word of God, or reception of the Word of God.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

• Pastoral Prayer

- This is a prayer offered to God on behalf of the people by the Pastor.
- Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
- Should end with Amen, in unison with the people.

• Sermon

- Exposition of God's Word. The zenith of the worship service when Christ's people hear from Christ.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

☉ Closing Hymn

✧ Usually a subjective hymn of response from the people to the Word of God.

☉ Benediction and 3-fold Amen

✧ The benediction is a word of blessing from the Lord to his people.

✧ Signifies the end of the worship service.

✧ 3-fold Amen is a sung congregational affirmation of the benediction.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

☉ Announcements

✧ Most announcements are in the weekly church bulletin. Don't insult the intelligence of the worshipers by reading all the announcements

✧ Only special and important announcements should be highlighted from the pulpit.

✧ Keep the time of announcements short.

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MECHANICS FOR MUSICIANS

☉ Play Like a Singer

✧ The instrument supports the singing, and is subordinate to it. Sing while you play if possible.

☉ Keep Straight Timing and Value of All Notes

☉ Ornamentation

✧ Function of Ornamentation - to help the singing (cadences, lead-ins, to keep the beat, etc)

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MECHANICS FOR MUSICIANS

☉ Take note of theme and mood of the hymn. Make sure style of playing does not compromise it.

✧ e.g. 6/8 into 3/4 because of broken chords.

☉ Phrase your playing, take note of breathing points.

✧ At the end of the stanza, give a breath mark.

✧ Use rubato to facilitate breathing but preserving tempo.

☉ Ritenuto/Ritardando ONLY at the last stanza.

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