

Transforming Worship

A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

Part 3

Confident Leadership



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Liturgical Multi-Tasking






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Put yourself in their place

- Mentally 'live' the service as a whole
- What is likely to be the mood of the congregation?
- In terms of pace and flow, where are the natural pauses?
- What might be an appropriate response after the talk?
- How might the music connect with other ingredients?
- What will be the predominant mood at the end?

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Timing

Some important questions to ask:

- How long will the service last?
- How long will each part take?
- How much time will the music add?
- What about Banns of Marriage?
- What about Notices?



How long, O Lord?

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Questions to think about

- How does the image of driving a car help you to understand the task set before you?
- What are the biggest challenges for you, as you prepare to lead the congregation in worship and how might you overcome them?

Press pause and take 5 – 10 minutes to reflect or discuss

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The worship leader in action

- Prepare yourself
- Dress appropriately
- Think through the choreography
- Consider your body language
- Watch out for annoying quirks



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Congregational participation

Posture

- Standing
- Kneeling
- Sitting

Choreography

- Movement



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Building rapport

Worship leader or the lead worshipper?

- Put people at ease
- Include everyone
- Give permission
- Maintain good eye contact



Formal or informal? ... But not a chat show host

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Questions to think about

Reflect on the sample order of service in terms of your own leadership.

- How will you encourage full congregational participation and build rapport?
- What can you do to help worshippers focus on God, not on you as a worship leader?

Press pause and take 5 – 10 minutes to reflect or discuss

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Choosing words with care

The words of the leader:

- Use appropriate language
- Communicate information clearly
- Make every word count



The words of the congregation:

- Be careful which words you put on the lips of others
- Enable the congregation to respond with integrity

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Voice projection

Posture

- Stand tall with head up
- Speak naturally
- Speak slowly and clearly



Use a microphone if available

- Correct distance from mouth
- Beware - louder but not necessarily clearer



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Involving others

Readings

- Which version?
- Dramatized?



Prayers

- Formal intercessions
- Interactive

Including an activity

- For children
- For everyone



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Questions to think about

- What stands out to you, which you hadn't thought about before?
- Which practical skills do you find most challenging?

Press pause and take 5 – 10 minutes to reflect or discuss

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The worship leader as pastor

Requires pastoral sensitivity to

- All ages
- Disability
- Vulnerability
- Different spiritual styles
- Different learning styles



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Go in peace...

Encourage relationship

- With God
- With each other
- With the wider Christian church
- With the wider world

Called to a life of everyday worship

- As a living sacrifice
- Monday to Saturday



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Love and serve the congregation

Reflect on Philippians 2

- Have the same attitude as Jesus
- Discern what is happening
- Accept feedback
- Remember: "God is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."



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Questions to think about

- What do you think you need to work on most to become an effective worship leader?
- How will you reflect and review at the end of a service?
Consider honestly the positives, negatives, strengths and weaknesses.

Press pause and take 5 – 10 minutes to reflect or discuss

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Thank you for using this *Transforming Worship* resource

Additional materials to accompany this session are available online as downloadable pdfs, including Top Tips for Worship Leaders, a Worship Review Sheet and a Further Reading List

To find out more about *Transforming Worship*, visit our website at: transformingworship.news

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