

PLANNING FOR WORSHIP

Since we are first and foremost servants, the way we plan needs to reflect a servant attitude towards the needs of our congregation. Personal preference and style choices need to be put aside in order to best serve the congregation.

As you start planning, determine whether the song choices will be made by the corps officers/pastors, the worship team, or if it will be a shared responsibility. Your corps officers/pastors have been appointed as the spiritual leaders of your church and it is important to foster a good working relationship with them.

As you start selecting music, you need to be aware of the demographics of the congregation. Aim to serve all age groups represented.

Determine if there is a theme for the service. Is it a special focus Sunday, like Thanksgiving or a Senior Soldier Renewal? Is the officer/pastor speaking on a certain topic, such as holiness or repentance? A theme can drive the choices for songs, Scripture and transitions.

Prayer is key as you plan the worship of God's people

Figure out if you are planning an open or closed set. An open set will have songs that relate to the theme or particular elements of the service (eg. a dedication). A closed set will have songs that relate to one another, but not necessarily to a theme or event in the service. It aims to give the congregation a short time focused on a particular thought (eg. God's provision).

Place musical sets in the service where they help with the overall flow. Perhaps an upbeat chorus can help facilitate movement that may have to happen on the platform. A devotional style chorus can lead into a prayer time or the message.

People will come to worship with a variety of different feelings. You need to make sure you have a balance between upbeat and joyful songs and slow, reflective songs. A mix of tempos and atmosphere you present to the congregation will assist each person to meet with God where they are at.

Repetition of songs is important for congregational learning, but excessive repetition can quickly become frustrating, making worship stale and lifeless.

It is important to work with other music leaders at your corps. Try to find opportunities for blended worship with musical sections working together. This can be a great way to promote unity in worship, reduce "competition" between groups and provide musical diversity.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3 : 5-6 KJV