

Sung Worship at the 11am Service- A Guide

Oh my! What an absolute joy it is that you're going to be leading the sung worship at our 11am service. The 11am service is a wonderful collision of ages, cultures, and backgrounds, and it is a privilege to lead this diverse group of people in worshipping God. We want you to feel released, equipped, and empowered to step into your God given talents in service to them. In this guide we have sought to provide a little information about the flow and direction of the service, which will hopefully be of help when you come to choosing your songs.

If you'd like to see the songs that we are currently playing at Hope then head over to Planning Center and click on 'songs' from the main menu. All of the songs in our library have been scheduled in the last year, and make up our current songs list. You can even filter these songs to see which hymns and all age songs we've been doing. For more help finding these tagged songs, do take a look at the document we produced entitled 'navigating planning center'.

There are two 'sets' of worship during the service, one at the beginning, and one at the end. The block at the beginning provides both a centring introduction to the service and starts to take us on our journey of worship together. It is typically made up of four songs:

SET ONE:

Song 1

The first song is one of the very first things we do together in our service. If you look back over previous weeks you will see that people tend to choose things that, lyrically speaking, are declarations of who God is, or perhaps some kind of invitation for God to come meet with us. The children are still with us during this first song, so it is worth bearing in mind that they may be playing along with their instruments, or joining in with the inflatables or the scarves. Whatever you choose, it is helpful if the first song is well known to the congregation so people are freed to join in with gusto. At the end of this song the service leader will come and lead a time of confession, during which you, or your instrumentalists, should continue to play softly in the background.

Song 2

Immediately after the confession and absolution we jump right back into sung worship with an all age song that includes actions. These are some of the most high energy songs we have and the children and adults alike can really come alive if you encourage them enough, so go ahead and have some fun. We have an intentionally small pool of all age songs to choose from on Planning Center under the 'All Age' tag. If you are leading often at the 11am then it might be worth making sure you are comfortable with at least 2 or 3 of these all age offerings.

Songs 3 and 4

After the children leave the third and fourth songs are really over to you. It's always great when our worship leaders have had a look at the readings and theme for the week, and have prayerfully considered where it is God might be leading us.

At the 11am we try to include a more traditional song at some point in the service. There is no rule as to where this song should go, but the third and fourth songs are a good option. Like the all age songs, you can find the pool of hymns we use on planning centre via the 'hymns' tag.

After these two songs we continue the service with the peace, prayers, and sermon before arriving at the second block of sung worship, which is typically made up of three songs:

SET TWO:

Song 5

After the sermon we either enter into a time of ministry, or into communion, so what you play will depend on which kind of service it is.

If we are celebrating the eucharist then you need to be the first up to receive, then head over to play a distribution song. The congregation will not be singing, for the most part, during this song, but instead be receiving communion or sitting and contemplating, so choose something that you feel confident to lead alone. Distribution can be a lengthy process or relatively short, depending on the attendance on any given weekend therefore this song needs to be something that is extendable or repeatable as far as is needed. When most have received and the service leader has taken the bread and wine to distribute to the final few, feel free to ask the congregation to stand and join in the next song.

If, however, it is not a communion week, then this fifth song and the sixth song are very much a set of their own during which the leader or preacher will be leading ministry. The songs should be sensitive to this, and during leading you will need to keep an eye open for the service leader should they want to interject to pray or offer a chance to respond etc.

Song 6

The sixth song, as mentioned above, may well be the latter half of a ministry set, but if we have shared communion then it is worth noting that it will be a song that gathers us back together. After this sixth song we have a brief pause in our sung worship to say the post communion prayer, and for the children and the adults to feed back to one another.

Song 7

The seventh song is the final song of the service, as with the first song, the children will be in with us so it may be worth thinking about how to engage them, or what different songs might feel like with the addition of a (not necessarily rhythmic) tambourine. Like the first song, the last song works best if it is something that the congregation know well, helping to draw us all together before the end of the service.

On a more general note, do have a look at the songs from the week before to avoid too much repetition; we try to avoid using more than two songs that were also used the week before, and we never play the same all age song two weeks in a row. And please remember that the songs need to be uploaded to Planning Center 7 days in advance, along with their keys and any relevant attachments to help out your band, the service, leader, the projectionists and a whole host of others who come together to help our Sundays run according to plan.

So that's it! 7 songs that we sing together as we come to worship, and seek God at the bottom of Holloway road. We hope that this is a useful guide and pray that as you come to prepare you will be brought fully alive in His presence, that you might know the divine and lead His people out of the overflow.