

AGO Boston 2014

**Side Dishes for the
“Hymn and Sermon” Sandwich**

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Blended worship, creative worship, or whatever you want to call it, the church musician employed today sooner or later meets a request from a pastor, committee member or congregant to “liven-up “ the service.

- Where's Julia Child when we need her?
- How do we design a service menu that satisfies the variety of tastes at the worship table?
- What can be added to the existing service without burning the local congregation's traditions?

Start with a favorite recipe

- something familiar

Combine ingredients:

- worship order
- participants - *choir, congregation, soloists, instrumentalists, clergy, lay leaders*
- musical components - *prelude, introit, hymns, anthems, responses, postlude*
- other components - call to worship, invocation, responsive readings, scripture, prayer, benediction

Add seasoning

- musical style
- musical form
- something unexpected
- imagination
- new ingredient

Stir in lightly and let simmer

ie. plan ahead and live with it a few days

Serve

Planning

How is your worship planned?

- Pastor takes control, central responsibility
- Joint discussions between pastor and musician
- Worship team

Decisions, decisions, decisions

Style

Standard/Traditional
Anglican, English “minor”
Revival Era
Gospel
Pop
Contemporary - “high brow”
Contemporary - “Hollywood”
Praise and Worship
Taize
Jazz
Spirituals
Ethnic
Renaissance
Baroque
Classical
Romantic

Purpose Use

Gathering
Prayer
Closing
Meditation
Celebration
Communion
Special Season
Preparation
Response

Text

Theme
Theology
Purpose/Use
Head/Heart
Inclusive language
New text to familiar tune

Participants

Organists
Choir
Congregation
Instrumentalists
Soloist
Clergy
Any or all of the above

Examples

Final Thoughts

As musicians we have the opportunity and privilege of providing the seasoning.

- Season lightly
ie. don't use too many ideas in one service
- Enhance the familiar
- Introduce new without throwing out customs and traditions
- Communicate with other decision makers and participants

*“Learn new songs, but keep the old,
One is silver and the other gold.”*

