



HYMN PREVIEW

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

and

As the Deer Runs to the River

Note to Worship Planners:

For March 12, two new hymns are mentioned in the Year A Planner from [The Foundation](#) for their thematic connections. Hymn 913 fits the service theme and should be introduced if selected. A new tune for 532 is of intermediate difficulty and definitely needs cantor/choir help. Or, use it as an anthem/solo, using the alternate setting in the accompaniment volume along with the standard setting. It nicely reflects the First Reading and the Gospel. Planners can decide if it fits with the Romans reading suggested as the sermon text. For both 913 and 532, the [Musician's Resource](#) provides a lead sheet. For 532, there is also an Instrumental Chorale Parts Pack which provides the individual soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voices in a variety of instrument transpositions.

Comments on the pace of introducing new material:

How much new material is too much, too fast? That varies greatly from congregation to congregation depending on various factors, including (1) general musical literacy (Can most people read a melody line? Probably not in most congregations.), and (2) use of cantors, choirs, and instruments to introduce new material, and even (3) mood/receptivity. It isn't surprising that some complaints have surfaced asking for a slower pace of introducing new material! A useful guideline is "How many people can we comfortably bring along?" and not "How much new material can we program before too many people feel uncomfortable?" Some congregations should aim for a more cautious or conservative pace. Remember, the suggestions in the Year A Planner are just that—suggestions. In the March issue of *Worship the Lord*, Pastor Jonathan Bauer describes pace in a newer mission congregation:

In a church where most people don't have much of a WELS background and where all kinds of families with young children are learning to worship together, I've found that simple and stable are huge blessings. We do quite a few things seasonally. We use orders of service seasonally. We often use seasonal opening or closing hymns. We'll use the same psalm refrain seasonally while speaking responsively the verses of the Psalm of the Day in between. Overall, our repertoire of core hymns is quite small (~125). The different settings of the service that we use is even smaller (two with seasonal variety, especially during the festival half of the Church Year). Simplicity and stability continue to pay dividends. It's a great joy to see new worshipers get familiar with our service quickly. It's a great joy to hear children who can't read yet belting out the simple melodies and texts they hear week after week.

You can read his full article from a worship and outreach series [here](#), #119.