



## Just starting to explore the new hymnal?

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There is now so much information available on the new hymnal that it can be overwhelming for any congregation or individual just now starting to explore the new hymnal suite of resources. And that content is spread over several websites: [christianworship.com](http://christianworship.com), [welscongregationalservices.net](http://welscongregationalservices.net), and [online.nph.net](http://online.nph.net).

Someone recently asked for guidance on where to begin. So here are resources to help answer some key questions.

- How does a study committee efficiently become familiar with the new hymnal even before considering purchase?
- How can we share useful information with the entire congregation?
- If we are just starting to use the new hymnal later this year, what's the best way to introduce it?

### Awareness and basic information

1. Why a new hymnal? A [bulletin insert](#) provides a simple and brief summary. This is especially helpful if there hasn't yet been much discussion within the congregation. This short summary could be used first with a leadership group or a study group if that seems best. Some of the videos in #4 below also answer the "why" question.
2. What's in the new hymnal? Every congregation received multiple copies (depending on congregation size) of a little booklet, *Christian Worship: Preview*. A downloadable copy is available here: [Christian Worship suite](#). Some of the same content is featured [here](#).
3. What are some of the new hymns? See [Christian Worship: Hymn Preview](#). A Tentative Hymn List (from November 2020) is available in three formats [PDF](#), [RTE](#), and [XLSX](#). Color coding indicates new hymns and changes in hymn tunes.
4. How can we inform people about new hymnal details? [Various presentations](#) are available. Some of these might be used in a Bible class setting or with a leadership/study group. The first two are quite short. The "Hymns" video along with the Hymn Sing and Concert videos are likely to be of interest to a wider audience. Links can be shared with the entire congregation. "Hymnal Highlights" began appearing in February 2022 and new content will be added.
5. How do we plan for purchasing new hymnal resources? What are the essential volumes to acquire? See [Budgeting for Christian Worship](#).

6. What is the experience of other congregations in building consensus to obtain the new hymnal and pay for it? See [Worship the Lord: Earliest Hymnal Adopters](#).
7. Should we obtain the Service Builder software? See a variety of resources and a link to a trial version here: <https://online.nph.net/servicebuilder>. More information is at [christianworship.com/products/service-builder](http://christianworship.com/products/service-builder). A discussion of cost/value is here: [Christian Worship: Service Builder Cost, Value, and Benefit](#).

## How to start using the new hymnal

If you already have new hymnals (or once you acquire them), see the planning and introduction options in the Year C Worship Plan, available at [The Foundation](#). See the gray box just under the video: “DOWNLOAD WORSHIP PLANNING MATERIALS.”

This is a very extensive planning guide for the entire Year C, Advent 2021 to the end of church year in November 2022. Because it is so extensive, it will take some time getting comfortable with its contents and approach. But once worship planners understand the logic and layout, it has potential to save a vast amount of time.

The Year C Worship Plan offers a schedule for introducing new liturgical materials (songs of the liturgy) as well as new hymns at a pace that will be comfortable for most people. You could adapt the liturgy intro plan that began last Advent for whenever you start using new hymnals. Someone comfortable with the Excel spreadsheet could easily move the new liturgy plan (column J) to whenever you start. (The comment “omit Gloria” only applies to Advent or Lent.)

For the very first Sundays of using the new hymnal, find intro scripts and a dedication rite here: [Hymnal introduction resources](#).