7 steps to AWESOME

Thanksgiving worship leading

with Dan Wilt

1 AWESOME preparation

Awesome Thanksgiving worship leading begins at least *2 months* ahead of Thanksgiving. In other words, the songs, Scriptures and other elements you are planning should begin in September. This enables you to offer the best worship music you can for Thanksgiving. Make it a big deal.

AWESOME collecting



Worship leaders are always collecting music for different seasons. Collect songs, readings, and prayers from various traditions that focus on giving thanks, and keep them in electronic or physical files for the next year.

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3 AWESOME integration

During Thanksgiving worship sets, often songs are not enough. Integrate in short prayers of thanks between songs, or gather prayers from the congregation by email a few weeks before. Make "giving thanks" a vital worship experience for your community.

AWESOME decor

4

Memorable Thanksgiving worship experiences go way beyond the music. Bring in elements that remind people of Autumn, or work with others to place artwork in the sanctuary or foyer that evokes Thanksgiving warmth. Map with the teachings for that season.

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5 AWESOME connectors

Thanksgiving precedes Advent, and should point toward the Advent and Christmas season. Connect the holiday in your worship sets with the holidays into which we are entering. This gives fuel to the community's thanks, and creates anticipation for the longer season ahead.

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AWESOME arrangements

6

Make Thanksgiving special. In some countries like the US, Thanksgiving is a bigger holiday than Christmas. Work on some sweet arrangements of hymns, songs, or other expressions of gratefulness traditional to the season. It matters.

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7 AWESOME visuals

People love to be reminded of the physical surroundings that draw them to Thanksgiving. Use autumnal backgrounds for lyrics, with taste (i.e. do not overdo this). Lean into the anticipation people are beginning to have about the holiday, and remind them that thanksgiving sits at the center of a vibrant, Christian life.

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