7 steps to AWESOME

Christmas worship leading

with Dan Wilt



AWESOME preparation

Awesome Christmas worship leading begins at least *2 months* ahead of Advent (starts 4 weeks before Christmas). In other words, the songs, Scriptures and other elements you are planning should begin in October. This enables you to offer the best worship music of the year for the beginning of the Christian year. Make it a big deal.

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AWESOME communication

2

You and the person leading the Advent and Christmas season messages need some time together to plan well and to float ideas. The congregation is expectant. Ride that expectancy to create memorable experiences that last for a lifetime. They will keep coming back if you do.

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3 AWESOME musicians

While this idea will shift according to your church's worship team philosophy, consider bringing in extra musicians and instruments. The Christmas worship "experience" matters to families and guests, perhaps more than any other time of the year. Leverage the moment, and bring in guest musicians and artists.

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AWESOME decor

4

Memorable Christmas worship experiences go way beyond the music. Bring in barren tree limbs and decorate them with lights in the middle of the seats, make the stage a veritable Christmas living room, or have cookies baking for fragrance. Consider all the senses in your service planning.

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5 AWESOME songs

Worship leaders from different traditions have varied views on the best music choices through Advent and Christmas. Find the home runs for your pastor and crew. Then, make 50% of your set Christmas songs (with one exception below) through Advent. Save *Joy To The World* for Christmas morning.

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AWESOME arrangements

6

This is very important. For most of your congregation (possibly), singing a carol clearly, and with the melody and feel with which they are somewhat familiar, is vital. Being clever gives worship leaders and musicians a buzz, but may not hit the mark – creating a worship space through Christmas music. Take the high road.

7 AWESOME endings

Many worship leaders plan the beginning, and middle, of a worship set well – with less thought to the ending. Aim at a strong finish; leave people in a sacred, reflective mode, especially on Christmas eve. Usher them out the door with music from the stage or foyer. Begin well, and end well. Above all, enjoy the season.

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by dan wilt

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