As the church gathers to sing, worship planners are putting words in peoples' mouths with the songs we choose to lead. As you plan each weekly service, consider these variables as you choose songs:

THE PERFECT WORSHIP SET LIST

Something OLD

Consider including songs that draw from the deep well of 2,000 years of Christendom. Use an ancient hymn, prayer, or chorus older than you. Newer is not always better.

Who is the subject of the song? God? Me? Us? Both?

Songs, Scripture, Responsive readings

Something NEW

A "new" song can be something original to your community, a song never sung before, or something not used for a while. Produce and arrange familiar songs in fresh ways by using different singers, tempos, instruments, and grooves to awaken the collective heart of the congregation.

Varied Tempos & Time Signatures

Take them from distance > intimacy

Something CONTINUOUS

Sing a song from last week. Also, consider the week after you lead. Create set lists that compliment each other from week to week, season to season. Keep a smaller pool of songs to choose from instead of choosing from the vast ocean of songs available to us. Use similar or relative keys when switching from songs to songs within a set.

Something for EVERYONE

The body of Christ is complex and varied. Consider MORE than your preference and mood. Is someone grieving, another celebrating, yet another hoping for a better day? Are you singing lyrics everyone can honestly sing?

Something for TODAY

Consider the season of the Church (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost etc). Keep your pulse on the news of the day locally, regionally and globally. Give language to the events affecting your current context.

Male Singers, Female Singers

Outer court to inner court

Whisper soft and Super LOUD. Are you using dynamic?

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