

# Planning and Pastoring Through Corporate Worship Services

*Ben Slee | London Church Planting Academy, 1st Dec 2021*

## Planning Corporate Worship

1. The **individual elements** required by Scripture are
2. United by a **central theme** directed by the sermon passage and
3. Arranged in a **gospel shape** through which we walk as the service progresses.<sup>1</sup>

### *A brief note on liturgy*

#### *Individual Elements*

#### *Central Theme*

1. Preserves the priority of preaching
2. Music serves the text
3. Transformational impact

#### *The Gospel Shape*

God → Man → Christ → Response

1. Transformational impact
2. Informing private worship
3. Transitional clarity
4. Purposeful variety
5. Gospel unity
6. Historical foundations

## Pastoring Through a Service

How might the way we lead services be significant in forming our church culture?

For newcomers / outsiders?

For the church family?

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<sup>1</sup> I'm indebted to Graham Beynon for identifying these stages in an Oak Hill lecture, June 2019.

## *Defining the role*

The role of a service leader is:

To **pastor** the congregation through a worship service  
through **intentional** use of liturgy and **thoughtful** transitions  
to draw people into the **gospel shape** of the service.

## *Making Thoughtful Transitions*

“Those who lead services should indicate, without tedious explanation, why particular songs are sung and why prayers or affirmations of faith occur where they do. Why has the order changed this week and why has this new item been included? ... How will the transition be made in a way that is not artificial or manipulative? Participants should be helped to realize where the whole event is taking them, with its reading , its teaching and its responses.”<sup>2</sup>

## *Example: Transitions into Confessions*

### *The place of silence*

## A worked example

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<sup>2</sup> David Peterson, *Encountering God Together*, Nottingham: IVP (2013), 67-68.

# Evening

Philippians 4:2-9

28 November 2021

Rejoicing in Partnership

**General Notes:** GOSPEL SHAPE

God: offers peace to all who come to Him through Jesus.

Man: We are by nature at enmity with God and one another.

Christ: has died to bring us peace with God.

Response: We dwell on the goodness of God, present our requests to Him, and enjoy His peace.

**Length  
in mins**

**Notes**

4:00 Pre-Roll

1:00 Countdown

## Welcome

1:30 Call to worship

See detail

Call us to worship with these words (note this is a call-and-response):

Those who are suffering, come for peace  
**For He has overcome the world.**

Those who are anxious, come for peace  
**For He cares for you.**

Those who are weak, come for peace,  
**For He gives strength to His people.**

**Now may the Lord of peace himself  
give us peace in every way.**  
(*Jn. 16:33; 1 Pet. 5:7; Ps. 29:11; 2 Th. 3:16*)

3:35 *Crown Him With Many Crowns* [ C ]

vv. 1, 2, 6, 4 (see detail)

1. Crown him with many crowns...
2. Crown him the Lord of life...
3. Crown him the Lord of peace...
4. Crown him the Lord of years...

4:45 *Come You Sinners* [ C ]

## Confession & Assurance

### 2:00 Confession

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We are by nature at enmity with God and with one another. But God offers us peace through the atoning blood of Jesus. So we come to confess and receive afresh peace with God:

**Father God, you have commanded us to love you  
with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength  
and to love other people as much as we love ourselves.  
But we have not loved you or other people as we should.  
We have said and done things that are wrong.  
But because you love us, you sent Jesus to die on the cross  
To be punished instead of us.  
So because of Jesus we ask you to forgive us  
for the wrong things we have done.  
Please help us to know that, through Jesus,  
You are not angry with us  
And please help us to live more and more  
How you want us to live.  
Amen.**

### 1:00 Assurance

Romans 5:1

since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 5:00 *Now Why This Fear* [ A ]

### 2:00 Church Family News

Please pray here after the song, thanking God for the peace we now enjoy with Him through Jesus.

### 7:00 Finance Update

## Hearing God's Word

### 3:00 Reading

### 30:00 Sermon

## Responding To God's Word

### 4:00 Prayers

### 4:25 *It Is Well With My Soul* [ C ]

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**1:30 Benediction**

John 14:27

**Please:**

1. Pray in response to the sermon & final song.
2. Invite people to sit down and do housekeeping.
3. Close the service with the following words of Scripture.

Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

This outline contains all the info you need, but if you wanted the service sheet, they can be found here:  
[christchurchmayfair.org/ServiceSheetPM](http://christchurchmayfair.org/ServiceSheetPM)

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**5:00 Discussion Questions**

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**69:45**

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