



Just starting to explore the new hymnal?

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There is 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, welscongregational-services.net, and 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 been yet 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*. 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. A discussion of cost/value is here: [Christian Worship: Service Builder Cost, Value, and Benefit](#).