

# **History of our Hymns**

## **Night of Worship**

**Prelude** – Gregorian Chant being played as people enter

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 47:6-7 & Ephesians 5:19

**Opening Hymn** – “Come Thou Almighty King” – Congregation  
- *played by just piano & organ*

**Narration** – Biblical Hymnody  
- *Old Testament (Miriam & David)*  
- *New Testament (birth of Christ, Paul, Revelation)*

**“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” – Ensemble \***

**Narration** – Ancient Hymnody

**“Gloria Patri” (a capella) – Ensemble \***

**“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (a capella) – Ensemble \***

**Narration** – Medieval Hymnody

### **Hymn Medley – Congregation w/ organ**

**“All Creatures of our God and King”**

**Narration** – Intro. to German Hymnody (Luther)

**“A Mighty Fortress is our God”**

**Narration** – German Hymnody (Gerhardt)

**“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

**Narration** – English Hymnody (Calvin)

**“Psalm 23” – Ensemble w/ piano \***

### **Hymn Medley – Congregation w/ piano & organ**

**Narration** – English Hymnody (Watts)

**“O God our Help in Ages Past”**

**Narration** – English Hymnody (Wesley)

**“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”**

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**Narration** – Gospel Songs/Spirituals

### **Hymn Medley – Congregation and Full Band**

**“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”**

**“Jesus is all the World to Me”**

**“How Great Thou Art”**

**Narration** – Contemporary

**“God is Able”**

**“You are Good”**

**Postlude** – Contemporary Worship Music

## Notes/Suggestions

### Ensemble hymns

*\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* – arr. John Rutter

*Gloria Patri* – Methodist Hymnal

*Of the Father's Love Begotten* – arr. Paul Wohlgermuth

*Psalm 23* – Methodist Hymnal (to the tune of Crimond)

- multiple arrangements of these songs can be found at [jwpepper.com](http://jwpepper.com)

### Hymn Medleys

In this example of a hymn service you will notice there are 3 sections entitled “Hymn Medley.” These sections of the service invite the congregation to participate in the hymn singing. You will also notice that within some of these medleys there is narration. These small portions of narration (20-30 sec.) should serve as transitional elements between different time periods of church hymnody. As each time a new era of Christian hymnody is introduced, it will be followed by a hymn from that era that the congregation will sing.

### Instrumentation

One creative way to help give your congregation the full effect in your hymn service is to experiment with the instrumentation. Realizing what types of instruments (if any) were used in these time periods is a unique way to show your congregation just how church music may have taken place throughout history. For example, some early church hymns in the Ancient/Medieval eras may be sung a capella. As you transition to German hymnody you might add the organ for accompaniment. As you progress throughout your journey, you might add other instruments that are fitting for the times in which these hymns were written and sung, perhaps culminating in a full worship band for the final set of contemporary songs.

This layout of a hymn service serves as an example for you to follow. Feel free to use any and all of the material that you've seen. However, make it your own. Churches and congregations are different in so many ways and no one knows your congregation better than you do. So be creative. Think outside the box and find out what you can do to really engage your congregation in a wonderful night of Christian Hymnody.