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Handbells and Modern Worship?

Adapting to a New Paradigm

What is contemporary/modern worship?

Participatory
Thematic vs lectionary
Casual
Instrumentation
Mission oriented

How do we bring handbells into modern worship?

Respecting modern/contemporary worship style

Making it more participatory

Use familiar “Contemporary Christian Music” or familiar hymns
Allow congregation to sing with the bell choir, if possible
Utilize a soloist, or solo instrumentalist
Narrative-Scripture Readings
Play with a track or live accompaniment
Incorporate the use of multi-media
Bells with vocal ensemble/choir
Others

Making Handbell ‘features’ part of the worship experience - not a performance

Give background to song and make it relevant (how does it tie into the theme?)
What ‘function’ does the song fulfill (i.e. meditation, celebration, prayer)
Project the text of the song
Coordinating with pastoral staff, planning ahead so that it fits the “theme”
Handbells as percussion instruments – the WOW factor (special effects like martellato, singing bell, chimes etc).
 Make a joyful noise!
Emphasis on the visual aspect of handbells
Tell a story

