

# Leading Corporate Worshipers to Listen

with Joel Bidderman

## Introductions and introduction

- Your journey: celebrating contexts (Name, location, what drew your attention to this workshop?)
- My journey

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship." – A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

## Developing a listening culture

- Paying attention to, and engaging, your community's worship rhythms
  - ***What is already in place?*** (DNA, traditions, and rhythms)
  - ***Where can you grow? / What's God inviting you to?***
- Developing a listening culture
  - Cultivate listening in your own life: ***What are some of the practices that help you to listen?***
  - Develop/discuss/practice the value of listening with leadership and staff
  - Teach and practice listening with the congregation

# Elements of leading

## Communication

- Setting the tone with humility and meekness: soft language instead of hard
  - Using invitational language instead of directive commands: use corporate tone, not top-down (i.e. using: “Let’s...” - not “sing it,” “louder,” etc.).
  - Keep the relational circuits open
  
- Lead new practices with simple relaxed direction

## Cultivating silence

- Fight through the awkward: start small and build on it.
  - Normalize silence
  
  - Make it a rhythm (do it on a regular basis)
  
- Let silence do the heavy lifting
  - Don’t underestimate the power of intentional silence (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Upm9LnuCBUM>)
  
  - Trust God to work
  
- Two ways that I intentionally make space:
  - planned
  
  - planned spontaneity

## Song selection when a part of musical worship

- Choosing songs that you can respond to with listening
  - Songs of intimacy that are accessible
    - Heart language &/vs. Scriptural
    - Ex: Highlands (Song of Ascent) vs. Always Faithful, Throne of Grace
  - Utilize musicianship to set the environment for listening
  - Practice ‘making space’ and spontaneity with the musicians

- Songs I’ve enjoyed utilizing in creating a listening environment in corporate worship:

Contemporary	Traditional
<p><b>God with Us</b> (Ingram, Jordan)  <b>Everything</b> (Tim Hughes)  <b>Be the Centre</b> (Frye)  <b>Always Faithful</b> (Asbury, Asbury, Thomas, Wells, Whitworth)  <b>God of Rest (Dios Del Descanso)</b> (Kim, Williams)  <b>Build My Life</b> (Barret, Kaple, Martin, Redman, Yonker)  <b>Form Us</b> (Corum, Morgan)</p>	<p><b>Be Thou My Vision</b> (Byrne, Forgaill, Hull)  <b>Come Thou Fount</b> (Robinson, Wyeth)  <b>Be Still My Soul</b> (Schlegel)  <b>I Need Thee Every Hour</b> (Hawks, Lowry)  <b>It is Well</b> (Spafford, Bliss)  <b>Abide with Me</b> (Lyte, Monk)  <b>Give Me Jesus</b> (Crosby)</p>

### Take Aways: