

Some Helpful Books for Leading Worship

Marva Dawn [Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down](#) and [A Royal Waste Of Time](#).

She is excellent and a good place to start. [Reaching Out](#) is the one to start with, [Royal Waste](#) is her further thoughts and reflections from interacting with people over the ideas in her first book. You may think she is advocating traditional worship, but she tries to correct this misunderstanding in her second book.

John Frame [Worship in Spirit and Truth](#) and [Contemporary Christian Music: A Biblical Defense](#).

The first book is a good overview, in the second book he responds (very convincingly I think) to many of the typical arguments against praise choruses. My main criticism of the second book is that many of the songs he holds up as good choruses are really kind of trite. He is a theologian and has a classical background and so he is not as familiar with what is musically excellent in the more popular musical genres. Still, very worthwhile reading.

Hughes Oliphant Old [Worship](#) and [Themes And Variations For A Christian Doxology](#)

Old is the leading scholar of traditional reformed worship, and he writes a column for Worship Leader magazine. He will help you appreciate the richness of the tradition. His dissertation, published as [The Patristic Roots Of Reformed Worship](#) (it's out of print but available in Firestone and/or the Seminary Library - [BX9427 .O4 1975](#)) proves that the reformers were really trying to go back to early church worship.

Terry Johnson (ed.) [Leading In Worship](#)

This is an excellent resource that gathers gold from the best reformed liturgies and puts them all in one book! Great corporate prayers and wisdom on the order of a service too. He is very High-Church in his perspective, and I disagree with him at points, but you can learn a lot from this book.

[The Trinity Hymnal](#) and [The Trinity Psalter](#)

A good hymnal is invaluable. The Psalter puts all 150 Psalms in verse form and suggests tunes so that you can sing the Psalms in worship!

Louis Benson [The Hymnody Of The Christian Church](#) and [Studies In Hymns](#)

Both of these are out of print, but he is a great scholar of the history of hymns. Some of the modern hymn story books include apocryphal stories but his [Studies In Hymns](#) is reliable, and solid. I find his stuff through Internet sites like: [abebooks.com](#) and [bibliofind.com](#).

Henry Foote [Three Centuries Of American Hymnody](#)

This is out of print too, but it is a great historical overview of hymnody in America. You will learn tons from this book! But beware, he is sympathetic to Unitarianism.

Asahel Nettleton [Village Hymns](#)

This is a great 19th century reformed hymnal that has been reprinted recently. Nettleton was a famous reformed revival preacher (you should read his [Life and Labors](#) someday!)

Gadsby's Hymns

This has been reprinted recently too. It is reformed Baptist and includes 1200 hymns (without music) and can be obtained (as can Nettleton's hymnal) from heritagebooks.org)

John Julian Dictionary Of Hymnology

The standard reference work but it would cost you \$100 if you can find it on the Internet used somewhere.

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