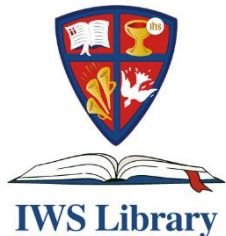




The Robert E. Webber

Institute for Worship Studies



Contemporary Issues in Copyright & Worship

IWS Worship Seminar, Tuesday June 25, 2024

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Introductions

About Jennifer Nicholson

- IWS Faculty Member as Librarian
- IWS MWS alumna
- Master of Arts in Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida (ALA-accredited, terminal degree)
 - Coursework in Copyright/Scholarly Communication related to publishing, books, and licensing
 - Worked in the intersection of government and libraries
- Professional vocalist at St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral in Florida
 - Projects at the intersection of copyright and worship in the visual arts for my MWS
 - Previously a music director with PowerPoint projection responsibilities



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Disclosure

- This presentation focuses on copyright in the United States.
- The information in this presentation is meant to be a guide and not a definitive legal source on matters of copyright. I am not a lawyer and cannot provide legal advice.



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Overview

- Why Copyright? & Copyright Overview
 - Religious Service Exemption
 - Information for Educators
- Public Domain
 - Locate the copyright page of books and websites for worship liturgy elements
- Music licenses
 - CCLI & One License
- Images & Copyright
- AI & Copyright.
 - Most recent information on where we are legally
 - Worship example
- Examples throughout & Questions at the end

Why Copyright & Worship?

- Lack of awareness or assumptions concerning copyright compliance.
- Live-stream and online worship have changed how churches approach copyrighted materials in recent years.
- AI and emerging concerns with copyright and worship.
 - Some questions to consider:
 - Are you a songwriter?
 - Are you an artist or visual artist?
 - Are you a teacher or professor that creates curriculum?
 - ***How would you feel if someone took your song/art/curriculum without your permission, used it, and also changed it?***

Why Christians Should Comply

- Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (Romans 13:1, KJV)
- Thou shalt not steal. (Exodus 20:15, KJV)
- Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (Ephesians 4:28, KJV)
- Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. (Proverbs 3:27, KJV)
- The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers (Psalm 37:21, KJV)

Copyright

In the United States, copyright is the law. Churches must abide by U.S. copyright for their worship services.



Photo by [Bermix Studio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

If you created something – music, lyrics, poetry, a prayer, etc. – then that work is owned by you and protected by copyright. Copyright empowers creators like you!

Definition: “Copyright is a form of protection grounded in the U.S. Constitution and granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works” (U.S. Copyright Office n.d.).

Learn more about copyright from the U.S. Copyright Office:
<https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-general.html#what>

Isn't there an exemption for religious worship?

There is a copyright exemption for religious services concerning performance and display: “(3) performance of a nondramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatico-musical work of a religious nature, or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly;” (U.S. Copyright Law 2022, p. 27).

- However, livestreaming and recording are NOT included in this exemption (Christian Copyright Solutions 2022).



Photo by [Matt Botsford](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What if I own a copy of the work?

- Even if you bought a personal copy of a copyrighted work, that does not give you permission to distribute or reproduce the work in a worship setting.
- Example: If you own a piece of worship music, that does not necessarily mean you can freely use the music, make copies, and put the lyrics in a bulletin for a worship service. Factors such as permission to livestream the music, permission to reproduce lyrics on a PowerPoint, and more must be considered.



Photo by [Gift Habeshaw](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What About Educators – What Does the Law Say?

Educators, be aware of:

1. Fair Use
2. TEACH Act
3. Copyright vs. Plagiarism

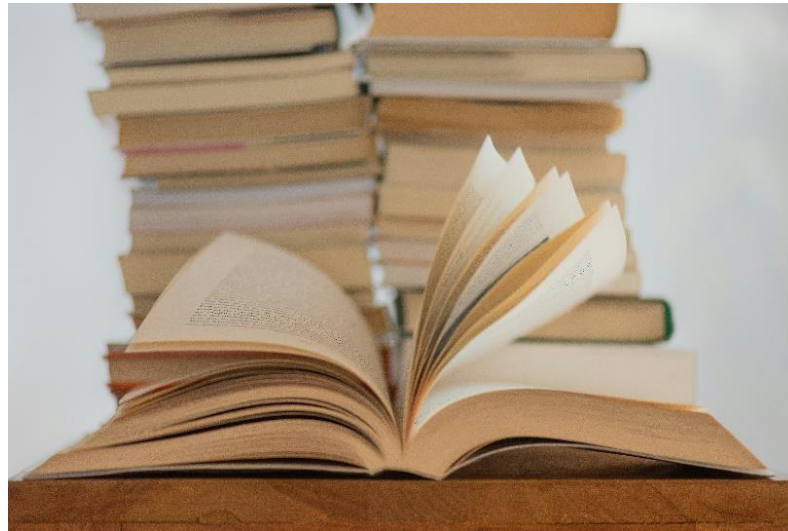


Photo by [Elisa Calvet B.](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What Does the Law Say? – Fair Use

Fair Use allows a copyrighted work to be used in certain scenarios, such as for teaching, scholarship, or research purposes, without gaining copyright permission. If Fair Use is determined, there may not be a copyright violation for students citing worship resources in their academic papers. It depends on four factors, as listed below in the law:

“§107 - Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use⁴¹

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 106 and 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use the factors to be considered shall include—

- (1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- (2) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors” (U.S. Copyright Law 2022, p. 20).

What Does the Law Say? – Fair Use, Continued

Consider using the online [Fair Use Evaluator](https://librarycopyright.net/resources/fairuse/index.php) to determine if the use of the copyrighted resource falls under Fair Use, which is available at the following link:

<https://librarycopyright.net/resources/fairuse/index.php>

- “[Fair Use Evaluator](#)” by © 2008 Michael Brewer & ALA Office for Information Technology Policy is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](#). No changes were made.

If you or a student would like a print copy rather than an online evaluator, consider using Columbia University Libraries’ Fair Use Checklist to help your students evaluate if the use of the copyrighted resource falls under Fair Use:

<https://copyright.columbia.edu/basics/fair-use/fair-use-checklist.html>

- “[Fair Use Checklist](#)” and [this introduction](#) by Columbia University Libraries is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#) with attribution to the original creators of the checklist Kenneth D. Crews (formerly of Columbia University) and Dwayne K. Buttler (University of Louisville). No changes were made.

What Does the Law Say? – TEACH Act

Educators may believe that since copyrighted worship resources are being used for teaching or educational purposes, students and faculty are covered from copyright violations in the classroom and during practicums and services. However, copyright law 17 USC § 110(2), also known as the TEACH Act, discusses online teaching spaces:

“(B) the performance or display is directly related and of material assistance to the teaching content of the transmission;

(C) the transmission is made solely for, and, to the extent technologically feasible, the reception of such transmission is limited to—

(i) students officially enrolled in the course for which the transmission is made; or

(ii) officers or employees of governmental bodies as a part of their official duties or employment;” (U.S. Copyright Law 2022, p. 26).

What Does the Law Say? – TEACH Act, Continued

Thus, any materials that are livestreamed or recorded outside the learning community to view are NOT limiting the transmission to students enrolled in the course.

For examples, IWS must follow copyright law for its recordings and livestreams, including chapels and practicum services.



Photo by [Kevin Gonzalez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

For more information on the TEACH Act, and to use a checklist to determine if using a resource falls under the TEACH Act, see the [TEACH Act Checklist](#):

<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/copyright/teachactchecklist>

- [“TEACH Act Checklist”](#) by University of Texas Libraries is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#). No changes were made.

Plagiarism

- Copyright is different from plagiarism, but can be related.
- Plagiarism is claiming someone else's work as your own by not properly citing the source.
- Copyright deals with whether you have permission to use that source at all.
- For instance, you decide to use the lyrics of a recently published worship song at your church. You cite the author but did not get permission from the author nor do you have a license to use this song. In this case, you have not committed plagiarism, but you have infringed on the copyright.

Is this copyrighted resource being used in an academic assignment or paper?

If yes, the student must ensure they determined Fair Use as it relates to educational use for scholarship and research.

- Use the resources listed on previous slides of this presentation to help you and your student determine Fair Use.
- Students should still cite the source correctly to avoid plagiarism, but do not need to gain copyright permission to use the resource.



Photo by [Daniel Thomas](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Review: Copyright & Educators

- When navigating copyright, it is best to ask yourself and your student the following questions:
- Is this resource copyrighted?
 - Understand how the Religious Service Exemption, Fair Use, and the TEACH Act may factor into using the copyrighted resource.
- What will the copyrighted resource be used for?
 - Determine if the resource is for an academic paper or something else.
- Will the worship service that uses the copyrighted resource be livestreamed or recorded?
 - If copyrighted resources are being used in a livestreamed or recorded worship service, you must have copyright permission and proper copyright attribution must be included!

Example: Copyright & Educators

- Amy turns in an academic paper for your course, and part of that paper required her to carry out a worship service at her home church in Kansas. She checked all her worship resources and determined they fall under Fair Use. Amy did not record or livestream the service, but included the modern prayers and images she used in the service and her reflections in detail in her paper without citations.
- *Has Amy violated copyright?*

Example: Copyright & Educators

- *Has Amy violated copyright?*
 - Answer: **Most likely no, but she has plagiarized.** Since the service was not recorded and she determined Fair Use, the service should fall under the religious service exemption under her home church as well as educational Fair Use in her paper. However, you may want to double check how she determined Fair Use. In addition, because Amy did not include any citations in her paper, Amy plagiarized the modern prayers and images.

How do I ensure the worship sources I use for my church's worship comply with copyright?

1. Understand the public domain.
2. Locate the copyright page of books or websites for worship liturgy elements (such as prayers, liturgical texts, and Bible quotes) to ensure you have permission and credit the work correctly.
3. Know about the licenses for music and lyrics and how to use them.
4. Understand the use of images in worship.

Public Domain



Photo by [Brian McGowan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Public domain means works that do not fall under copyright, usually because the rights expired or the creator put their work in the public domain.
- You can freely change, adapt, arrange, and reuse public domain materials. You do not have to cite these materials, but it can be helpful to cite so that others can find and access the source later.
- Anything published in the U.S. before 1929 is usually in the public domain. If unpublished, it is the life of the author + 70 years. For a helpful guide on determining if a work is in public domain, see Cornell University's guide below:
<https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright/publicdomain>

Public Domain: Hymns

For older hymns and songs, ensure that both the *lyrics* **and** *music* are in the public domain before using without attribution in a worship service.

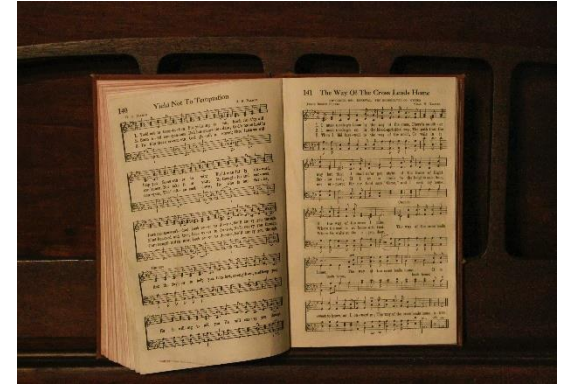


Photo by [Mick Haupt](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- [Hymnary.org](#) provides excellent information on if a tune and lyrics are copyrighted or not under *Tune Information* and *Text Information*.
- [The Cyber Hymnal™](#) includes thousands of Christian hymns & Gospel songs from many denominations, most in the public domain, including lyrics, audio, sheet music, pictures, history & more.

Liturgies & Prayers

- Older prayers, such as the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed, are in the public domain. But what about newer prayers?
 - You will want to ensure you have permission. Many liturgical resources give permission to reproduce the prayer or text so long as you cite the source correctly.
 - Many liturgical books have a copyright page, usually within the first several pages of the book, that gives details about using the prayer or liturgy in worship.
 - Let's look at an example from *The Worship Sourcebook*.

Example: *The Worship Sourcebook*

- I want to use a prayer for my church's worship service. I found the prayer in the book *The Worship Sourcebook*. Do I have permission to use it?
 - Check the copyright page. Page 3 says the following:
 - “Brief portions of this book may be reproduced without special permission for one-time use only, for worship and educational purposes, in an order of service for use by a congregation, or in a special program or lesson resource, provided that no part of such reproduction is sold, directly or indirectly, and that the following acknowledgment is included: ‘Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, © 2004, CRC Publications.’ For all other uses, please contact the copyright holder.” (*The Worship Sourcebook* 2013, 3)

Example: *The Worship Sourcebook*

- I want to use a prayer for my church's worship service. I found the prayer in the book *The Worship Sourcebook*. Do I have permission to use it?
 - Check the copyright page. Page 3 says the following:
 - “Brief portions of this book may be reproduced without special permission for one-time use only, for worship and educational purposes, in an order of service for use by a congregation, or in a special program or lesson resource, provided that no part of such reproduction is sold, directly or indirectly, and that the following acknowledgment is included: ‘Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, © 2004, CRC Publications.’ For all other uses, please contact the copyright holder.” (*The Worship Sourcebook* 2013, 3)
 - **Conclusion:** Since I am using this prayer for a worship service, I can include the prayer from *The Worship Sourcebook*; however, I must include the reprinted by permission acknowledgement written above in the worship PowerPoint or bulletin to be in compliance with copyright.

Holy Bible



Photo by [Rod Long](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Older translations of the Bible, such as the King James Version, are in the public domain. But what about newer Bible translations?
- You will want to ensure you have permission. Many translations will allow you to quote the words up to a certain amount so long as you credit the source. Always check!
- Bible Gateway provides excellent information regarding copyright of translations. They also have a list of Bibles in the Public Domain: <https://support.biblegateway.com/hc/en-us/articles/360001403507-What-Bibles-on-Bible-Gateway-are-in-the-public-domain->
- Let's look at an example of the *New Living Translation*.

Example: *New Living Translation*

- I want to quote Psalm 118, the longest Psalm in the Bible with 176 verses, from the New Living Translation in my worship service bulletin. Do I have permission?
 1. Go to: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>
 2. Scroll down and select “New Living Translation (NLT)”
 3. The complete copyright information can be found here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Living-Translation-NLT-Bible/#copy>

Example: *New Living Translation*

- I want to quote Psalm 118, the longest Psalm in the Bible with 176 verses, from the New Living Translation in my worship service bulletin. Do I have permission?
 1. Go to: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>
 2. Scroll down and select “New Living Translation (NLT)”
 3. The complete copyright information can be found here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Living-Translation-NLT-Bible/#copy>
- **Conclusion:** Based off copyright information in the link above, you can quote Psalm 118 from the NLT, so long as you include the initials *NLT* at the end of the Bible quote.

Review: Public Domain & Liturgy

- Items in the public domain are free to use and alter without permission and attribution, but you must determine if the item is in the public domain or not.
- For older hymns, ensure the music and lyrics are both in the public domain.
- For new Bible translations, prayers, and liturgies, ensure that you have permission by checking the copyright page or BibleGateway and complying with any credit or citation requirements.

Music Licenses

- Licenses allow owners of copyright content to license their work to another for distribution and use. We will use IWS as an example, but check what licenses you have with your church. IWS has license agreements for worship music to be used for IWS worship services from the following companies:
 1. **CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International)**
 2. **ONE LICENSE**
- *Note that these licenses cover many songs and lyrics for worship, but not all!*

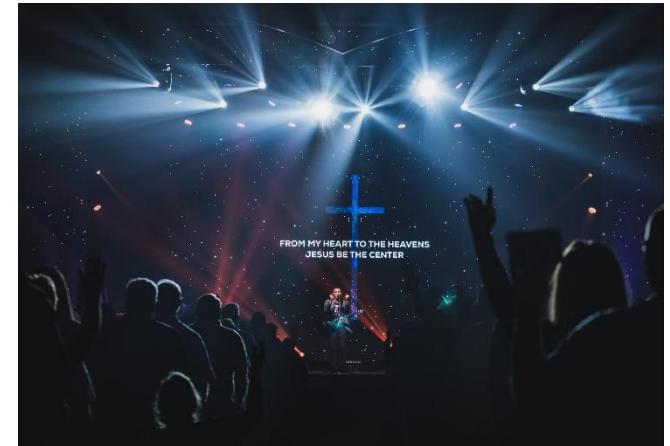


Photo by [NATHAN MULLET](#) on [Unsplash](#)

CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International)

- **Church Copyright License®**
 - Allows projecting, printing, recording, arranging and translating music or lyrics for IWS worship services.
- **CCLI Streaming License™**
 - Allows IWS worship services to be streamed and uploaded online.
- Find out more about copyright from CCLI in their “2 Minutes with CCLI” videos: <https://us.ccli.com/2min/>
- To find songs that CCLI covers, check SongSelect here: <https://songselect.ccli.com/>

Displaying CCLI Info in Worship

When you decide on a song to use that is covered by CCLI, you *must* put the following information on the PowerPoint of the song and/or the bulletin, as required by CCLI:

- “When reproducing a Song, include the song title, writer credit(s) and copyright notice in substantially the following form:

“Hallelujah” words and music by John Doe

© 2018 Good Music Co.

Used by Permission. CCLI License #12345”

(CCLI n.d.)

*List the CCLI License number,
NOT the song number!*

ONE LICENSE

- ONE LICENSE features music, lyrics, and songs by other publications not necessarily covered by CCLI that also allows for reproducing music and words for worship.
 - To find songs that ONE LICENSE covers, check their search feature here:
<https://www.onelicense.net/search>
 - Helpful tips on how to use their search feature can be found here:
<https://news.onelicense.net/2023/03/16/how-to-search/>

Displaying ONE LICENSE Info in Worship

When you decide on a song to use that is covered by ONE LICENSE, you *must* put the following information on the PowerPoint of the song or the bulletin, as required by ONE LICENSE:

“The LICENSEE agrees to reproduce all WORKS as they are found in the original publisher's editions, including the title, name of the author, name of the composer (as applicable), and the copyright notice in the following example form. **Please edit the information specific to the title you are using and your organization's personal ONE LICENSE license number.**

© 2003, ABC Music Co., All rights reserved.
ONE LICENSE, License # L-500168”

(Cronin n.d.)

What if I want to use a copyrighted song but cannot find it in CCLI or One License?

- If the work is copyrighted, you must get permission to use that work in worship.
- If the copyright is not covered by the licenses or is not in the public domain, **do not** use the material unless you have permission.
- There are ways to request permission.



Photo by [愚木混株 cdd20](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What if I want to use a song, but I want to change the lyrics?

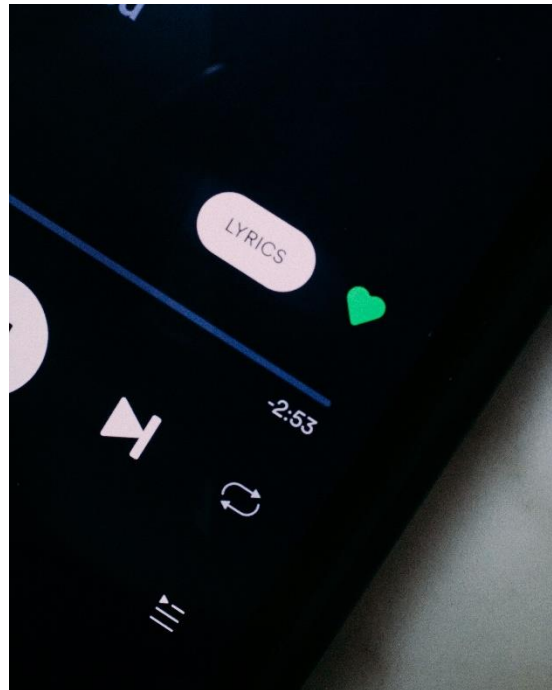


Photo by [charlesdeluvio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What if I want to use a song, but I want to change the lyrics?

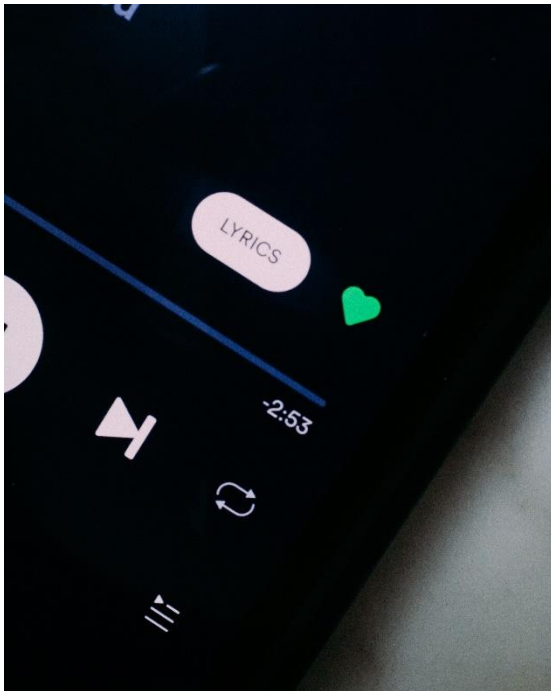


Photo by [charlesdeluvio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- If the song is copyrighted or in CCLI - “The answer is no—not without permission from the song owner.”
(CCLI, 2019)
- Public Domain – yes!

What are my alternatives?

- Contact the copyright owner for permission.
 - Copyright information is usually listed on the copyright page of a book or on the website.
 - The Copyright Office provides a helpful document on how to obtain permission:
<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ16a.pdf>
 - Note you may have to request permission well in advance.
- Consider using a similar work that you do have permission to use.
 - Search CCLI, ONE LICENSE, and other sources that give permission for similar material or use material in the public domain.
 - Create your own prayer/song/material!

Review: Music Licenses

- The two common license agreements churches have are with CCLI and ONE LICENSE. Check with your church regarding licenses and specific requirements.
- You must properly include the copyright information for any song you want to use in your worship.
- If you want to use a song in worship that is not covered by the licenses your church has, you must contact the copyright owner for permission.
- If you cannot get permission, it is best to use another song or source, or create your own.

Example for Worship Leaders

- You are planning a worship service. You decide to create a mashup of the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and the contemporary song “Great Are You Lord.” Since this hymn is in the public domain, you do not worry about the CCLI copyright.
- *Have you violated copyright?*



Photo by [Jason Rosewell](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Example for Worship Leaders

Have you copyright?

- Answer: **Yes.** While “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” is in the Public Domain (see hymnary.org), “Great Are You Lord” is copyrighted. You must include the proper copyright attribution. If you are going between the Public Domain song and the copyrighted song, it is a good idea to include the CCLI information on the first slide when the copyrighted song appears.

“Great Are You Lord” words and music by David Leonard, Jason Ingram, and Leslie Jordan.

© 2012 Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Integrity's Praise! Music; Little Way Creative
Used by Permission. CCLI License #[insert here]”

Images & Art in Worship

- Similar to liturgy, older images may be in the public domain, but this is not always the case.
- Do not assume that an image you found on a Google Search can be taken and used in worship.
- Any photos you took yourself, however, are fine to include because you created them.
- If you do find a picture you would like to use, check the copyright information. Some images have rules against altering the image in any way.
- Images may have a [Creative Commons license](#) that allows you to utilize works in different ways.

Resources for Images & Art in Worship

- [WikiMedia Commons](#) has images you can use, most with clear Creative Commons copyright information.
- [Art in the Christian Tradition \(ACT\)](#) has images that can be searched by Scripture, lectionary, and more. You can use any of these images so long as you properly attribute them as listed.
- [Unsplash](#) has many free images you can use and download, all with a license that is free to use with no attribution required.
- For instance, all images used in this presentation, other than the IWS logos, were taken from Unsplash!
- Other resources similar to Unsplash:
 - [Pixabay](#)
 - [kaboompics](#)

Review: Images & Art in Worship

- Ensure you have permission by using images in worship that are from the public domain, images covered properly by a license, or images you have created yourself.
- Just because an image is freely posted on the Internet does not mean you have permission to use that image in a worship service.



Photo by [Michael Henry](#) on [Unsplash](#)

AI & Worship

- The law is not set and things are constantly changing with AI and copyright. (U.S. Copyright Office n.d. <https://www.copyright.gov/ai/>)
- AI ingests copyrighted information used without permission, and there is some question if that information was used legally in developing AI – the law is still unclear in the United States (Chow 2023).
- AI is not always correct.
- AI is biased.
- Always a good idea to cite AI.

AI & Worship

- Let's see an example of some of these issues in action with ChatGPT.



Photo by [Solen Feyissa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

My Conversation with ChatGPT

You are an expert worship theologian. Write me a collect for Christmas Day and cite your sources.

My Conversation with ChatGPT

(OpenAI 2024)



Certainly! Here is a collect for Christmas Day:

Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God, who gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sources:

1. **The Book of Common Prayer (BCP):** The language and structure of the collect are influenced by traditional collects found in the Book of Common Prayer, particularly those used for major feasts such as Christmas. The BCP often uses a Trinitarian conclusion and emphasizes theological themes like the incarnation and the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Biblical References:**
 - **John 1:14:** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - **Galatians 4:4-5:** "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who

My Conversation with ChatGPT

Why did you choose BCP? Other denominations use collects.



You're right; many denominations use collects in their liturgies. I chose the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) because it is a foundational text for many Anglican traditions and has greatly influenced liturgical language and practice across various Christian denominations. However, here is a revised collect for Christmas Day, incorporating elements from other traditions as well:

Collect for Christmas Day

O God, who wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature, grant that we may share in the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sources:

1. **The Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian):** The structure of the collect is reflective of the collects used in the Presbyterian tradition, which often focus on God's actions in creation and redemption and our participation in divine life.
2. **The Roman Missal (Catholic):** The phrasing "wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored" echoes the prayers from the Roman Missal, emphasizing the restoration and elevation of human nature through Christ.
3. **Biblical References:**
 - **John 1:14:** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - **Philippians 2:6-7:** "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

This collect draws from the rich liturgical heritage of various Christian traditions, creating a prayer that resonates with a broad spectrum of theological emphases found in Christmas Day liturgies.

My Conversation with ChatGPT

(OpenAI 2024)

My Conversation with ChatGPT

Would I have copyright permission to use this collect in a live-streamed church worship service?

My Conversation with ChatGPT

(OpenAI 2024)



Yes, you would have permission to use the collect in a live-streamed church worship service. The collect provided is a new creation that is influenced by existing liturgical texts, but it is not a direct copy of any specific text that would be under copyright. Here's a brief overview of why you can use it:

1. **Original Creation:** The collect provided is an original work that draws inspiration from public domain sources and common liturgical language but does not directly copy any specific text from copyrighted sources.
2. **Public Domain Sources:** Many traditional liturgical texts, such as those in the Book of Common Prayer and the Roman Missal, are in the public domain or their use in worship contexts is widely permitted. The language used in the collect is common to many liturgical traditions and is not specific to any one copyrighted text.
3. **Fair Use in Worship:** Religious services, including live-streamed ones, often fall under fair use, especially when the content is used for non-commercial, educational, or worship purposes. This is particularly true for prayers and liturgical texts, which are generally intended for communal use.

However, if you have any concerns about copyright, you can always credit the sources of inspiration as follows:

"This collect is inspired by traditional liturgical texts from the Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Common Worship, and the Roman Missal, and incorporates biblical references from John 1:14 and Philippians 2:6-7."

This attribution acknowledges the sources without implying that the text is directly copied from any single copyrighted work.

My Conversation with ChatGPT

the roman missal appears to be copyrighted: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/policies/guidelines-for-the-publication-of-liturgical-books> can I still use this prayer in worship without copyright attribution?

(USCCB, n.d.) <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/policies/guidelines-for-the-publication-of-liturgical-books>

(ICEL n.d.) <http://www.icelweb.org/copyright.htm>

(OpenAI 2024)

My Conversation with ChatGPT

(OpenAI 2024)



The Roman Missal, particularly the third edition and newer translations, is indeed copyrighted, as indicated by the USCCB guidelines. To ensure that the collect is free of any potential copyright issues and can be used in a live-streamed worship service without attribution, it's important to create a version that does not directly draw from copyrighted texts. Here is a revised collect that maintains the original intention and theological themes but is phrased independently:

Collect for Christmas Day

O God, who wonderfully made the world and even more wonderfully restored our humanity through the birth of your Son, grant that we may share in his divine life, who humbled himself to share our human nature; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

This version avoids specific phrases that might be found in copyrighted texts, ensuring it is an original composition. You can freely use this collect in your live-streamed worship service without needing to worry about copyright attribution.



Message ChatGPT



ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.

**Always double check Generative AI
and do not assume you can freely
use its resources.**

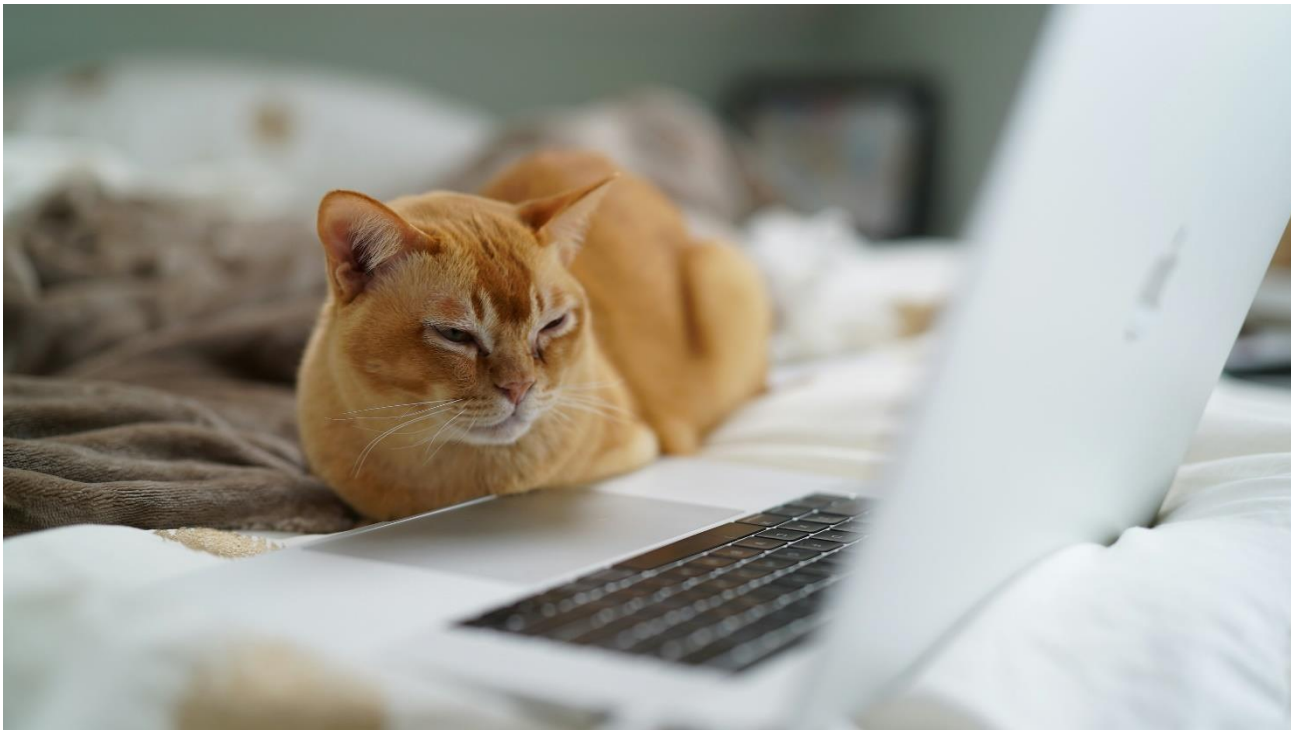


Photo by [Catherine Heath](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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Questions?

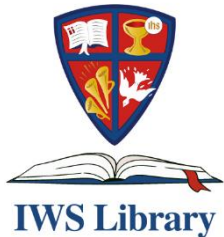


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Thank You!

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