

CCLI License – Update 2019

For ages, the power of song has been an essential ingredient toward inspiring worship. In today's visual world, so too are the rich images seen in film and video. But are those works ours to use during services or events or to enhance a presentation? Well, yes they certainly can be used with the proper licensing.

There are 3 things you need to know:

1. Just because you are a church, do not think you are exempt from copyright licensing. You cannot use someone else's copyrighted work in any way you see fit. Much of the copyright infringement that occurs is because many of us have believed we are exempt.

When you purchase a license, a whole new world of resources will be available to you. Because copyright law and licensing is complex and because access to the best Christian content can require valuable time to discover, be confusing and expensive, we want to make it easier for you and your church.

2. Your generic CCLI license covers printing songs, lyrics and hymns for congregational singing.

3. You can broadcast your church service with a copyright exemption as long as you don't broadcast it outside the building. The same goes for most copyrighted music. You must think of your church service as an event, which occurs at a location where a congregation is present. Any other broadcast or re-broadcast requires special performance licensing. This includes podcast; radio, Internet streaming and any other form of broadcast or re-broadcast.

- Churches do not need a performance license to play / perform copyrighted music in the context of a church service.

A "generic" CCLI license is a protective measure, which covers certain ways in which you can use the music; it's not a performance license. You would need to purchase a performance license if you want to do that. Broadcasts and re-broadcasts require performance licensing. If you are posting an audio or video recording of your church members singing a song that was written by another,

you need a performance license. (Many people post these recordings on Facebook and other social media sites, but it is not legal.)

- Your church likely uses music outside of the service such as Vacation Bible School, dances, graduations, retreats, etc.

The Church Copyright License is an agreement with songwriters and publishers. Your church or event will be authorized to copy songs, from an existing list, for use by / for the congregation. It covers printing lyrics in bulletins, programs, and song sheets for use by the congregation. Also covers creating songbooks for the congregation. It covers displaying lyrics for the congregation on screens with PowerPoint. Covers arranging, printing and copying new arrangements used for the congregation, where no published version is available.

You now know the truth and what you need to do. If you think, “no one will notice, if we don’t get the license”, then I will remind you that you are doing God’s work.

License Holders are responsible for including a copyright notice on all songs reproduced under the Copyright License. The copyright notice should include song title, writer credit(s) and copyright information as follows:

“Hallelujah”

Words and music by John Doe

©2000 Good Music Co

CCLI License #

For more information please visit: <https://us.ccli.com/manual>

If you have a question about licensing and wondering if you should do it or have questions about your existing license, please email, Jeanne Gaston at secretary@viadecristo.org and she will try to answer your questions and explain to you how easy it is to display your favorite songs on the Via de Cristo weekends and what it requires.