

Top 3 Worship Audio Visual Setups in Colorado

For thousands of years, churches, synagogues, and other places of worship have struggled with the basic problem of ensuring that those in the congregation can clearly hear and see what is happening during each service. From the acoustically friendly layouts of medieval cathedrals to the raised “bimah” used in many temples, efforts to ensure that congregants can fully experience and participate have been a major focus.

With the rise of technological options in audio-visual production and recording, worship services of all sizes have been able to enhance this experience for visitors. Here’s how three Colorado houses of worship tackled the audio-visual challenge with success:

Shove Memorial Chapel, Colorado College

Shove Memorial Chapel combines classic architecture with a cutting-edge audio-visual experience. The chapel features marble wall paneling, hardwood furnishings, and a stunning stained-glass rose window – but it also features a five-panel PL-11 Distributed Mode Loudspeaker (DML) system.

The chapel’s goal was to find a loudspeaker system that produced faithful reproductions of sounds, was feedback-resistant, delivered a consistent volume and frequency throughout the chapel, and could be installed discreetly in a way that harmonized with the chapel’s famous architecture, according to Colorado Springs-based [Sight + Sound Technologies](#). The chapel was built on the pattern of medieval cathedrals, making it highly reverberant. Color-matched paneling allowed the installation team to add speakers that not only worked well for the space, but also harmonized with the chapel’s unique visual experience.

Flatirons Community Church

Lafayette, Colorado, is home to Flatirons Community Church, a non-denominational house of worship with an average weekly attendance of 13,000 local residents. Since its founding in 1994, the church has grown by leaps and bounds – and its audiovisual needs have grown as well, especially when the church began adding modern worship music and the opportunity for local and regional Christian bands to perform in its 117,000 square-foot space.

Both the Lafayette campus and the recently opened West Campus in Genesee rely on multiple screens to present dynamic additions to worship to attendees. The church has used FOR-A switchers consistently since 2011 to magnify images, deliver video into overflow spaces, and stream services and music performances from its main campus auditorium to the Genesee campus.

Because on-site video production is handled almost entirely by volunteers, user-friendly audio-visual equipment is a must. So is the ability to project different images onto different screens at varying points in the service. For instance, during musical portions of the service, technicians can show the song's lyrics on some screens while maintaining an up-close view of the band on others – all while coordinating high-quality sound output for worshipers.

Northern Colorado Cowboy Church

Lucerne, Colorado's Northern Colorado Cowboy Church, or NC3, chose its name to demonstrate its earthy, down-home approach to worship – but its services are not nearly so rustic. Instead, services at NC3 are focused on contemporary music and themes, delivered with modern musical and theatrical flair, according to [FOH Online](#). Naturally, a cutting-edge audio-visual system is a must.

Recently, NC3 worked with Audio Video Colorado to install a new audio-visual system that sports a pair of Danley Sound Labs SM-60F full-range loudspeakers as its centerpiece. Since the church's current location is in a building originally designed as a restaurant, the church needed equipment that could deliver good sound fidelity and minimize both feedback and reverberation – all in a space with a challenging "L" shape. A new Soundcraft digital console and a Dante-networked 16-channel stage box complete the upgrades.

This year's Audio Visual Expo (AVX) in Denver, Colorado, offers a great opportunity for regional professionals and visiting presenters to check out some of the best audio-visual setups for worship services that Colorado has to offer.