

Contemporary Worship Music Report to Council

April 2020

Peace be with you!

What a difference a month makes. Last month, I reported about the old and usual processes we had in place for bringing music to worship. I marveled at the beauty of Ash Wednesday services. I spoke with excitement about plans for Lent and Easter. And then we were pushed backwards out the door of a plane at 10,000 feet.

Somehow, we didn't know we were on a plane, let alone standing at an open door. So many reactions as we began to fall... disorientation...fear...panic...anxiety. Then the sudden realization that we still have God, each other, and parachutes. And in that moment of absorption, we also see little glimpses of beauty and hope around us. And the possibility to land on new solid ground.

Over the last weeks, we, the church, have all struggled to find new ways to continue to connect. In a time when we can no longer gather, Trinity's staff has found and developed many new ways to meet people online. One vital way has been to bring livestream worship to the fore.

To support Trinity's new online worship presence, FaithX continues to come together virtually through technology. We enjoy being together at two weekly virtual meeting times – Tuesday nights, replacing our rehearsal; and following Sunday livestream worship at a virtual Garden of Eatin'. We are also setting out to produce a weekly music video for the livestream worship. Relying on each other's skills and gifts, we have set up a process for each member to contribute individual video and/or audio recordings of their part in a song, to our producer. He carefully combines and synchs the contributions into a single music video launched on Facebook at 5:30 pm on Saturdays, then used for livestream worship on Sunday. The videos are also available on Trinity's YouTube channel under the FaithX Playlist. As we move forward, I also foresee creating and collecting simpler recordings to add to the worship music for our church.

As is true for everyone everywhere, our Trinity staff has been experiencing a sizeable learning curve to revamp everything we do. I have so appreciated collaborating with passionate and creative folks who are determined to help us all weather this change in living. We have weekly virtual staff meetings and a new weekly virtual worship production meeting. We have worked together to revamp ALL communications efforts – my piece is a weekly eblast, replacing the ***Trinity Minute*** with ***What's Happening at Trinity Lutheran Church?***

I'm betting this will be one long skydive! With the reassurance of God's steadying hand, wonderful siblings in Christ diving with us, and parachutes of technology, we can notice the blue sky, the freshening air, white puffy clouds, and gradually coming into focus below - a place to eventually put our feet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Wilson

Director, Contemporary Worship Music