

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Music Program of St. Mark Presbyterian in Newport Beach

January 2019

I am thrilled to officially start as the next Director of Music at St. Mark Presbyterian! I am honored to continue in a line of accomplished directors who have established such a respected music program. I hope that I am able to live up to the high standard that each of them have set.

First, I would love to give a huge “thank you” to both Alicia Adams and Julie Metz for leading through the transition time. They both went above and beyond making sure that the weekly music responsibilities were being met and that the services were up to the high standard that the church expects. Also, to all of the volunteers who make things happen behind the scenes---thank you for all that you do! I am both impressed and inspired by what this church does in terms of social justice, equality, diversity and its statement of faith. I love the intellectualism and the idea that “it is our responsibility to understand the complexity of the issues that shape our world today.” I value that this church lives their faith “by wrestling with questions, not defending answers.”

In other words, I am not just here to direct a music program, but rather be part of a church community and all that entails.

A few things about me that you won’t find in my resume. I grew up in the Washington D.C. area in a family that was magnificently flawed. We went to an evangelical Church of God that taught me that questioning the church was wrong, that human beings were bad, and that Hell was a foregone conclusion unless I worked hard enough to “beat the Devil”(which was highly unlikely).

Fortunately, music saved me. More specifically, the people who were in music saved me. Choir was my solace. The piano was my safe place. Singing in choirs taught me the goodness of people. I ultimately learned that the power of music was not something with which we could be careless.

My rebellion came by going against the wishes of my parents and moving from DC to the great state of Kansas (most people leave the small town to go to the big city, I did the opposite)to attend a small Quaker school called Friends University. This little school was the best thing I could have done for myself. The level of teaching was incredible, the opportunities were many,

and I was able to study piano, voice, conducting, composition, and theatre with demanding professionals.

During my time in Kansas, I worked at a little Methodist church in Kechi, Kansas. It was there that I learned that Art and the Church were indelibly tied together. The Senior Minister taught me that it was the responsibility of church leadership to think creatively, artistically, and imaginatively. In his belief, God was all of those things and we were to be a reflection of those qualities as well. It was not unusual for us to write a musical for a worship service highlighting homelessness or create an altar out of garbage for an Earth Day service. The Fellowship Hall made an excellent Ballet Studio and the parsonage made a wonderful rehearsal space for the kids in the church to form their own band (25 years later they still get together to play). They taught me that church was the very place that we should be opening our minds most to creativity and infinite possibility. To this day, I try to carry that same philosophy with me in my approach to Church Music.

Some things to expect from me:

1. I start and end rehearsals on time.
2. I will do my very best to never surprise you.
3. I will offer as many opportunities as I can to assist you in making excellent music. Please do your part too (take notes, work on your music at home, come to rehearsal)
4. I will always try to pick music that enhances the theme of the Sunday.
5. I will mix in music that stretches all of us musically along with music that is easily accessible in a variety of styles.
6. I understand that you have other things to do in your lives beside church choir. I also understand that you volunteer to sing. Therefore I will do my best to create both a musically and spiritually fulfilling environment for you.

Thank you for already being so kind and welcoming to me. Thank you for your emails, hugs and handshakes. Thank you for letting me come into your church family. Thank you for your dedication to making music. Thank you for being the gracious and loving people you are.

Upcoming Dates

Chancel Choir

Weekly Rehearsal	Thursday, January 3	7:00-8:30	
Choir Retreat	Saturday, January 5	9:00-1:00	Potluck lunch!
Sunday Service	Sunday, January 6	8:45/9:30	Warmup/service
Note Catch-Up	Thursday, January 10	6:15-6:55	Extra help on music if you need
Weekly Rehearsal	Thursday, January 10	7:00-8:30	
		8:30-9:00	Extra help on music if you need
Sunday Service	Sunday, January 13	8:45/9:30	Warmup/service
Note Catch-Up	Thursday, January 17	6:15-6:55	Extra help on music if you need
Weekly Rehearsal	Thursday, January 17	7:00-8:30	
		8:30-9:00	Extra help on music if you need
Sunday Service	Sunday, January 20	8:45/9:30	Warmup/service
Weekly Rehearsal	Thursday, January 24	7:00-8:30	Julie Metz will be conducting Scott gone!
Sunday Service	Sunday, January 27	8:45/9:30	Warmup/service Julie Metz will be conducting Scott gone

Anthems and Introits

January

January 6	Introit	"Arise, Shine, For Thy Light Has Come"	Stephen Burtonwood (new piece) <i>Based on Lectionary reading from Isaiah 60</i>
	Anthem	"One Small Babe"	Jay Althouse #268 <i>Based on Lectionary reading from Matthew 2 (Epiphany)</i>
January 13	Introit	"God the Spirit, Lives Within Us"	Lloyd Larson (new piece) <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
	Anthem	"A Baptism Carol"	Mark Wilson #872 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
January 20	Introit	"Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace"	Mary McDonald (new piece) <i>Race Relations Day, Racial and Intercultural Justice</i>
	Anthem	"I Dream a World"	Dwight Bigler (new piece) <i>Langston Hughes poem</i>
January 27	Introit	"One Faith, One Hope, One Lord"	Craig Courtney #621 <i>Based on Lectionary reading 1 Corinthians 12</i>
	Anthem	"Above All Else"	Joel Raney <i>Based on Lectionary reading Luke 4:14-21</i>

Sunday, February 17th the Chancel Choir is invited to join the congregation while we have a guest choir joining us in worship.

Wednesday, March 6 we will be singing for the Ash Wednesday service and having our weekly rehearsal immediately after