

Dearest Epiphany friends and singers of the Song—Jesus Christ our Lord!

This salutation seeks to honor all those who shape the song of the Church at Epiphany. It is intended as a tribute to the unending song of the Church with orchestrated voices and instruments in the past, present, and future. God's abundant blessings thrive among countless gifted musicians sustaining the song in worship—traditional, blended, contemporary and now digital!

What a story! What a Song!

In these past months Covid 19 has grievously caused the suspension of church, disturbing, and challenging worship and music routines. At the same time, new opportunities emerge to ensure that the proclamation of the Gospel and the Song of the Church endure! Not the least of these endeavors is to adequately equip the AFLC and the sanctuary with vigorous audio and video technology—preparing us for a promising future.

Government restrictions and guidelines intend to instill measures that seek to safeguard the health and welfare of participants. Medical guidelines continue to exert cautions—cautions that specifically seek to tame, if not silence corporate and community singing. Globally and nationally, church bodies and community choruses await the resurrection of the song once again. Regrettably and yet responsibly—rehearsals, performances, and live singing have been suspended.

In recent months, music at Epiphany, has all been pre-recorded, with admittedly few singers, those who have quarantined themselves, continue to moderate risks, work largely from home, and are from the same household. Vocals and instrumentals are largely recorded in separate sessions and overlaid upon each other, at social distances, with all microphones, stands etc...being disinfected before and after use. Recordings are meticulously mastered by our sound engineer Andy Miller, before being synched into the worship experience. This process will continue in the foreseeable future given the appreciable risks of exposing someone to the virus with “unmasked” public singing. Pre-recorded music of all genres will be equally utilized for public, live-stream, and pre-recorded worship.

In light of these mammoth changes, Epiphany is “re-forming” the music ministries to be sustainable in the coming months. In recent days, the position of Music Assistant has been eliminated. The church remains indebted to Terensa Castro recognizing her passion for music and the people of Epiphany during her many years of service. Please take a moment to remember her in prayer, emails, e-cards, texting, and conversation, to express your personal gratitude for her dedication and spirit.

Furthermore, my personal role as musician will be modified beginning August 1, 2020. I will continue as a contract worker providing “music and worship services”, with the goal of piloting changes during Covid 19 and prayerfully managing the eventual rebirth of corporate song, supported by choirs, and ensembles. This will be done on a part-time basis. In synch with this vocational shift, I will be officially terminating my call as pastor and entering early retirement July 31, 2020. This is a decision for which I am solely responsible. It was my endeavor to assess the future, recognizing the sensibilities of this new chapter.

In Christ, our eternal Song!

Pastor David A. Johnson