

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT

While 2020 was not *exactly* what we expected, it did turn out to be a challenge that we met head-on.

Since the pandemic emerged and we have not had in-person services, the choir has had to make some serious adjustments to how we lead musical worship.

- I have learned two new programs – Adobe Audition (for audio) and Adobe Premiere Pro (for video), both of which are needed to produce virtual choir videos each week. Approximately 6-8 hours are needed to produce a video of each hymn or anthem.
- Each week, choir members are provided with sheet music of an anthem or hymn (or both) and a music track, to which they record themselves singing. They then send in a video of themselves singing, which is then used to create the choir video.
- Although each choir member is invited to participate, some do not because of the recording requirements.

I will be forever grateful to the choir members' flexibility and willingness to learn how to record themselves for the videos. It is our hope to eventually be able to safely record singers in the church itself, but that will not happen without taking everyone's safety into consideration.

As many of you know, our organist Jae Park resigned in October 2020 to become the Director of Music at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves. While we were sad to see him leave us, we are thrilled that he was able to take this next step in his career. Please stayed tuned, though – Jae has agreed to play a 30-minute recital on our organ, which will be shared online.

But while 2020 has been a bit stressful, we have had a major “up” – the renovation of the organ is finished, and it sounds more beautiful than ever! Huge thanks go out to Bob Dial and his assistant Chris, Rev. Mike Angell, and past organists Jae Park and Connor Scott. It is so wonderful to hear the full beauty of this magnificent instrument.

At this time, we will not conduct a search for a new organist until the pandemic is more under control. Until then, a few of our organ colleagues have agreed to make recordings for us to use during our online services.

Thank you all for your continued support of our choir. We know many people consider music a vital part of their worship, and it is our goal to keep providing that as our ministry to this church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O. Chapman
Director of Music