



Dear friends,

It's almost time to begin choir rehearsals and leading in worship! Earlier this year I read a blog by Phil Nitz who is a worship leader in Nashville. I may have shared these words earlier but I think they summarize why a church choir is still a relevant and valuable ministry in today's church:

*Among the many reasons the choir is vital to the life of any church, consider these three:*

1. *The choir is an **opportunity** for involvement. A church's ministry is only as effective as the people in its congregation who choose to get involved. Small groups, outreach teams, and the arts have provided great opportunities for congregants to sow into the life of their church's ministry, and the choir falls under all three of those categories. I've often heard the choir referred to as "the church within the church." When you join a choir, you're not just singing notes together, you're doing life and ministry together.*
2. *The choir is an **extension** of the pulpit. There are so many fantastic songs that have been written for the Church and many that have yet to be written. But not all songs are necessarily suitable for corporate worship. There are songs that teach, encourage, compel, and call to action, and the choir is a marvelous mouthpiece for such things. By presenting these kinds of songs, the choir takes on a pastoral role, and it brings a rich dynamic to the theme or message of that particular service. This is especially effective in services with a missional focus or special services like those during Holy Week or the Christmas season.*
3. *The choir is a **reflection** of heaven. The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse into God's throne room with angels singing together, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). John paints a similar picture in the book of Revelation. There is a heavenly choir that sings God's praises for all eternity. When we see our friends and family in the choir loft singing in harmony of voice and spirit, I believe we are momentarily transported (even if only in our minds) to the throne room of heaven. Furthermore, we often see a wide array of ages, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds on display in the choir. This, too, is a reflection of heaven – God's people, of every age and every race, worshipping together as one body.*

*We must not discount the richness the choir brings to the church's worship experience. I think many would be surprised by the long-lasting effect a choir program can have on their local church. If your church is anything like mine, the choir is a long-held tradition, and traditions enrich the life of the Church. Just because something is thought of as "traditional" doesn't mean it's not relevant for the body of Christ today. Let's strive to keep these traditions alive while moving forward together into a richer and fuller life with Christ!*

I hope that you can participate in our choir ministry as often as possible. We need each of you! Inviting others is also a great idea - please do. Please know how valuable your leadership is - and if you've been away for a while, please consider rejoining our team. For those who returning - thank you for all you continue to do in worship ministry.

**FIRST PRACTICE - Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00PM.** If this is too close to your get home from work schedule, come when you can. We will practice longer this first rehearsal and determine from here our schedule and times for future weeks!

***If you cannot come to Wednesday rehearsals, but want to participate in the choir, please let me know. You can practice music at home and rehearse with us on Sundays mornings at 8:00 or 10:30 before worship. If you would like child care for Wednesday evenings, please let me know and I'll arrange it.***

With thankfulness for you and your ministry,

*Jayne*