



Music at St. James in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Choir

How?

During this time of social distancing, the choirs of St. James continue to gather in a safe, responsible way; Wednesday and Thursday rehearsals continue. However, we have broken ourselves into small groups, sing masked, and always maintain appropriate distance between singers.

These gatherings are taking place in the spacious, well-ventilated nave or in similarly spacious Bishop's Hall. Upon entering the space, singers sanitize their hands. Each singer takes their music home with them, reducing the need for multiple hands to touch music. When leaving, singers exit through a secondary door. All doors are opened, and enough time is allowed between the arrival of each group for fresh air to cycle through the space.

Why?

We continue to gather in order to sing.

For members of our choirs, singing is an essential part of their spiritual life. It is also important that we prepare for the future. One day, we will be able to gather as we once did, and when that time comes, we will have used this time wisely to continue to learn new music, work on our technique, and continue to grow as a faith and musical community.

Worship

Unfortunately, the full choirs are unable to offer music in worship at this point. The size of our choir stalls limits us to an SATB quartet, made up of members of the St. James Schola. Congregational singing is also not recommended at this point.

With a quartet, we are able to remain safely spaced from each other and the congregation, and to offer glorious four-part anthems and hymns on behalf of the congregation. As an added challenge, our beautifully restored nave is currently without an organ. As we eagerly await the arrival of our new 42-rank Goulding & Wood organ sometime this spring, we are accompanying services on our charming four-rank portatif organ.

We proclaim Christ crucified and risen, and invite all to join with us in ministry together in his name.
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