May a Song Remain Among Us  
*Expressions for Holy Week*

For all of us who seek to minister to others, it’s a challenge in these unusual days to strike just the right tone. There are so many different needs of body, mind and spirit, that it is sometimes difficult to know just the right expression to offer. Some need uplifting from the loneliness of isolation, some need to be reminded of the joys around us, while others need time to grieve. The first three of these columns offered a wide variety of music for ministry. This week, recognizing that during this pandemic the world finds itself in a constant “Good Friday,” I offer two pieces of music that assist in our lament and grief while offering some comfort and hope.

For the first Sunday we cancelled “in-person” worship services at Pullen, the Youth and Chancel Choirs were to combine and sing a moving anthem, “Requiem.” After the devastation of the 2004 Asian Tsunami, singer/songwriter, Eliza Gilkyson, composed this simple, chant-like song. Arranger Craig Hella Johnson crafted a moving arrangement for choirs. The piece cries out to the universal mother: “our world has been shaken…mother mary, come and carry us in your embrace.” *For all who need to lament and feel an embrace through music and lyric, listen to “Requiem.”*

**Performance Link:**
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySmorZotXdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySmorZotXdA)

**Lyrics Link:**
[https://www.google.com/search?q=lyrics+requiem+gilkyson&oq=lyrics+&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j69i57j0l3j69i60j69i61j69i60.1258j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=lyrics+requiem+gilkyson&oq=lyrics+&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j69i57j0l3j69i60j69i61j69i60.1258j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

Last year, the Chancel Choir learned a new setting of a beloved text: “O Love” by composer, Elaine Hagenberg. Many of you commented on how meaningful it was when they sang it. The hymn text it expresses is a comfort to many. *For all who need a comforting expression with familiar words, listen to “O Love.”*

**Performance Links:**
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2cqblTDR8w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2cqblTDR8w)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD4nbUpuVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD4nbUpuVY)

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

*Larry E. Schultz, Minster of Music*