**May a Song Remain Among Us**  
*Coming Together through Audio-Visual Technology*

The first Pullen Staff planning retreat for 2020 was this past February. At that time, we worked on goal-setting for our ministries. **As I dreamed of methods to continue expressing the uniqueness of Music Ministry at Pullen, I decided I would like to explore additional ways that audio-visual technology and applications would enhance my work** – with ideas such as making use of video presentations on liberal church music philosophy, filming choirs and orchestra members to promote welcome and participation in our Music Ministry Groups, and using video calling in rehearsals to connect singers and instrumentalists with composers, hymn writers and other church musicians.

Little did I know in February that by March I would be suddenly thrust into a world where digital audio-visual platforms would become the *only* way to communicate, educate, and worship together! Technology I had considered as an enhancement was now the primary means of congregational life. (What is that saying: “Be careful what you ask/pray for!”? or perhaps, “Be careful what goals you set!”)

I am looking forward to the day when technology can once again intersect with the communal in more balanced ways. Until then, Music Ministry Group participants are learning new ways of collaboration. You may have noticed in recent livestreamed services that our church’s isolated musicians are finding ways to connect. This process involves my sending a prepared digital file to singers/instrumentalists who record their part. They send it from person to person until all the individual parts are transformed into a collective whole. Although it is time-consuming, the learning curve is high, and it cannot involve large groups, it offers individuals meaningful experiences. Music is soothing to the soul in isolation, but when voices or instruments combine with the harmonies of others, it is healing.

*Listen to several of our first efforts at this mode of collaboration, and offer gratitude for technology that can be used to connect individuals and lift our spirits:*

- **Deo Dicamus Gratias** (a choral anthem offered in worship on April 26)
- **Bring Many Names** (a hymn led for interfaith worship on April 26)
- **Shalom, My Friends** (a congregational round led in worship on April 26)
- **Keep God’s Light** (an anthem with congregational response for worship on April 19)

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

*Larry E. Schultz, Minister of Music*