May a Song Remain Among Us
Commonwealth of Love

Music-making strengthens the body, engages the mind and lifts the spirit. Studies have shown that singing and playing instruments provide for the well-being of our physical, cognitive and social health. We know from the experience of worship how music helps us engage and express the indescribable.

Realizing how healthful music-making has been to human beings, I never would have imagined that this week I would be participating in a webinar entitled: “What Do Science and Data Say about the Near Term Future of Singing?” Sponsored by the country’s major music and medical organizations, the webinar will be led by leading medical researchers who will offer fact-based conversation about protecting singers, conductors and others during this time of Covid-19. Though there certainly are concerns about the spread of infectious aerosols with group-singing and other activities, I look forward to creative solutions.

Though isolated, one solution for now is to celebrate how music connects us. This will be the focus of this Sunday’s livestreamed worship service. You will hear and sing along with people and groups from whom we are currently distanced including: Pullen’s Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, Pullen Orchestra, our partners in Cuba and the Republic of Georgia along with others. Music was the catalyst for these musicians to unite through remote recordings. It is also the means through which they will connect with you for worship in your home on Sunday, May 10.

In 2015, Pullen’s Church Music Search demonstrated first-hand how music connects us globally. Many of you remember meeting winning composer, Chris O’Hara, live from his home in England via Skype connection in our sanctuary. After that experience, one of Pullen’s Chancel Choir members was able to visit Chris while traveling to the UK. His piece, “Commonwealth of Love,” has become a meaningful expression for our congregation. Its title has become a description of who we strive to be. Enjoy listening to it today:

Performance Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iclCDK5RP04&t=909s
Presented for the 30th Anniversary of the Alliance of Baptists at Pullen in 2017
(Anthem is around 1:10)

Refrain Lyrics:
We will climb a mountain, a mountain far above;
we will build together, it will stand forever,
a commonwealth of love.
Hold on to the vision that strife one day will cease;
it’s a hope of justice; it’s a hope of freedom, O it’s the hope of peace.

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

Larry E. Schultz, Minster of Music