

## Music & Worship 2021

### ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

The great composer, J.S. Bach, would sign all of his compositions “SDG” for the Latin *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning “to God be the glory alone”. The mini-teams of Music & Worship have continued to quietly serve this year to the glory of God, exemplifying our mission statement, “*We exist to glorify God.*” **We have much for which to be grateful.**

We started the year creating YouTube worship by recording hymns and sermon response songs. Beginning in April 2020, Sue and Abbie would safely meet with singers and other musicians on a monthly basis to make recordings for Alex. While the pandemic prohibited many activities, **it also blessed us by giving our musicians opportunities to serve when they may have not otherwise been able to participate.** Three young adult members joined the music team!

Once we were gathering in the sanctuary for Sunday worship in April 2021, First Pres continued to stream our live services online. Safely masked, distanced, and limiting congregational participation, **we were thankful to be worshipping together again in person.** Working with Sue and Abbie, a small group of singers have rotated involvement to provide worship music on Sunday mornings.

Streaming live services also created more opportunities for members to serve. While Alex was on leave this summer, volunteers stepped up to develop a system for improving internet in the sanctuary, developing a process for streaming, and working in the booth on Sunday mornings. We are not a “high tech” church, but our purpose is to involve as many members and friends to worship together in communion, whether in person or at home, on Sunday mornings or watching online another day—*“inviting all into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ”*. Online services are an extension and inclusion of our Sunday morning activities, not a “production”. While we continue this online ministry, we appreciate your patience as our developing Tech Team learns and grows with the technology (see Tech Team Report for more details).



Especially now that the congregation does not spend as much time in the building, many tasks may go unnoticed, but there have been quiet helpers that decorated the sanctuary and Gathering Area for Christmas, changed paraments, set out communion cups, made and delivered CDs & DVDs of the services, put together worship outlines, gave a Children’s Moment, planned and implemented contactless worship activities, and more. We are blessed by these faithful servants who give of their time and talents for the glory of God.

-SDG