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OCT. 28, 2020



# SoundFourth!

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*Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church*



*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.*

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## CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

A Word from the Director  
Here Comes Our Cantata  
Practice Resumes!  
Prayer Requests & Praises

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## A Word from the Director

*"O how charming are the radiant bands of music flying in the air.  
The church triumphant gives the tone, while they surround the holy throne,  
In glory with celestial arts, angelic armies tune their harps,  
and raptur'd seraphs play their parts;  
Strike their notes at our Redeemer's birth."*

*-From the American shape-note hymn "Christmas Anthem"*

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This year has certainly been one to remember. We have been forced to adapt how our lives are lived from how our jobs work to how schools are run and even just how we go to church or the grocery store. As we try to make normal life work again, we sometimes get so focused on the activities surrounding a time of the year that we forget the purpose of the time of year.

As we enter this next two month period, we have a lot that we are attempting to adapt to. For the first time ever, most likely, we are not having an in-person cantata. Many might be tempted to have reservations or sadness about this, but at the same time we are blessed to still have this event. And as we look at having our cantata, our Christmas services, and other holiday events, we might have to be flexible on exactly how we have them.

But the reason that we have all of these events, however, HAS NOT CHANGED. Jesus has still come to us, He has still lived for us, He has still taught us the truths God intended us to live by, and He has still died for us, risen for us, and mediates today for us. This is why, no matter how the year may have gone, we still have the charge as the hymn says above - "the church triumphant gives the tone while they surround the holy throne." We still have every reason to praise our God and celebrate the coming of our Redeemer this holiday season, and we will, as we have done all these years, continue to look to God first and rejoice in what He has given us! In that spirit, we rejoice! Christ is born!

In His Service, Braxton

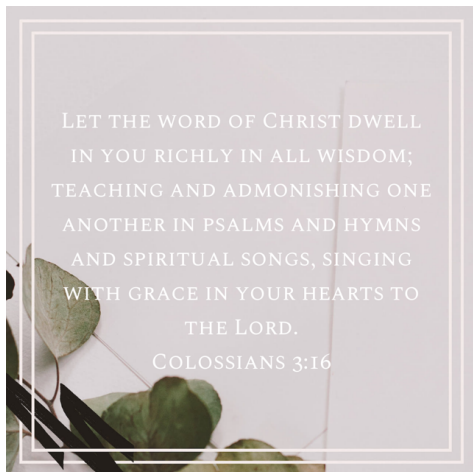
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## Here Comes Our Cantata!

After much discussion, thought, and prayer, it has been decided that our Christmas Cantata will be done digitally this year. In order to accomplish this, I am working right now on trying to record our cantata before the 13th. Our preliminary date for recording, at this time, is Wednesday, December 2nd, at 6:30 - our normal choir time. I will have more information on the exact timing of this recording soon. Thankfully, we will be able to record out of order and put things together which will help our schedule. Our final list of music for this event are listed below:

- An Advent Prayer
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
- Bring Us Peace
- O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee
- God So Loved the World



## Practice Resumes!

We are rehearsing on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, taking socially distancing and mask-wearing as a necessary part of our rehearsal and week to week process! We are trying to establish rotating groups of singers for services. If you are still uncomfortable with attending in person, I totally understand. If you are comfortable, however, I will see you then!

## Prayer Requests and Praises

- We praise the Lord for **Mallory Kubasko** is recovering well.
- Continue to pray for **Joyce Wright**, who had knee replacement surgery and is at home recovering.
- Continue to pray for **Pope Hardee**, who is recovering after being in the hospital.
- Continue to pray for **Amanda Howell**, the daughter of **Jimmy & Jackie Jones**, for recovery and healing after being diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Continue to pray for **Jimmy Jones**, who had surgery. Pray for a speedy recovery and comfort!
- Pray for our church in this time of transition - that we would, as a group and as individuals, shed aside anything that would inhibit us from seeking the will of God as to who He would have as our next pastor. And pray for our new pastor, that even now God would be working in his heart to prepare him for his ministry here in Smithfield!
- Pray for our nation - that we would seek unity and the face of Christ as we go into a volatile time around our elections. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."