*“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks.”* [Ephesians 5:19](https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/Malachi/4/2)

On Father’s Day sixteen of us went to the Barnstormer Game. It turned out to be a beautiful day, some might say a little too hot, but hey that’s baseball! I hope those who went had a good time and everyone who honored their fathers in some way enjoyed the day wherever you were. One of the things I enjoy most about baseball is the music. Though we only hear snippets of any one song, there is something about music that puts an extra beat in your heart as you sit with friends and family enjoying one of America’s oldest past times. Music is important. Without music life would be pretty dull. Think of all the ways music has inspired you, calmed you, refreshed you or added to your sense of worth. Music affects our mood, sets the tone for putting our best foot forward. Music brings back memories as well as makes new ones.

Martin Luther said “They who sing, pray twice.” After Moses and the Israelites were led safely through the Red Sea, they were overjoyed and so they praised God with a song; *“The Lord is my strength and my might”* (see Exodus 15 for the whole song). We hear 150 songs in the book of Psalms alone. Trinity recently learned a new chant for the Psalm on Sunday morning. It was time for a change and perhaps it will help us focus on the words. The liturgist sings one phrase and the congregation sings a different tone in response. The beautiful chant, Joe created, also gives us cause to notice the commas, which not only give us time to take a breath during some of the longer phrases, but also time to engage and proclaim its true meaning. The Second Letter to Timothy states that “all Scripture is God breathed,” and I believe God wants us to sing. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, when we sing to God, “the song has a different sound on earth than it does in heaven,” which got me thinking how much more beautiful music must sound to God. Suddenly it becomes a privilege to sing as we imagine all the saints accompanying us. When we praise the Lord all the heavenly angels join in song. In the Book of Revelation we hear, “*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (5:11-12)*

Bonhoeffer believed that when Christians sing together we “speak and pray the same Word at the same time…there is purity in the unison of singing. One of my greatest joys is hearing the congregation sing which you do so well and, I believe, truly love to do. I might add that your willingness to learn new songs is indeed a blessing. The Worship and Music committee try to introduce new music as often as we can, and I hope, that no matter what the genre, you will pay close attention to the words. The rich lyrics found in some of our more traditional songs as well as contemporary are beautiful and worth contemplating. Music can add to the quality and purity of our day. So let’s “*sing unto the Lord a new song*” (Psalm 96.1)...in the morning, throughout the day, and in to the evening. Let the beauty of music shape and mold us into the people God created us to be.

*“Shout for joy, O heavens; Rejoice, O earth; Burst in to song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.”* Isaiah 49:13

**Pastor Cheri**