



Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

On the verge!

This Sunday we celebrate Trinity Sunday. Some pastor or musician colleagues serving other churches sometimes use shop-talk language: “We worshipped over 300 last Sunday!” to which I’ll quip: “We only worshipped one, well, maybe we could think of that as three.” This Sunday will mark our last liturgy-at-home with the help of our video. We hope as many of you as possible found these weekly tools meaningful. I, for one, got

kind of weepy every hymn. But nevertheless, I was gratified to be experiencing a vibrant form of congregational song. Our on-line presence won’t cease, however – those not able to be present can still participate through the live-streaming which begins June 6.

I’m so happy/relieved to be returning to in-person liturgy on June 6th. Even though the current news is very encouraging, the world is still suffering with this pandemic, not all have access to vaccines yet. If you are eligible, and you can obtain access, please do so. It globally helps everyone in the struggle to beat this pandemic down – it’s not just about individuals. We still need to exercise some caution and restraint to help keep the pandemic numbers continue declining. For example, we’ll all wear masks, and continue distancing (which limits the number of people we can accommodate in one service), even though we may have a high percentage of vaccination among our assemblies.

In that light, there are some things to be aware of as we resume, calling for us to be flexible as we ease back. It’s an unprecedented experience we’ve just been through, and our resumption calls for unusual things – being flexible, going out of our way, being WILLING!

In order to facilitate distancing between household units, we’re offering three liturgies at the start. If you are typically a “10:00” person, perhaps consider 8? Or Noon?

After our first week or so, we’ll have the information we need to revise that schedule to best serve what we need to be able to do this and do it safely. Flexibility is key. This is the reason for the RSVP – instructions for which are forthcoming.

We have some unusual worship servant needs in order to keep a keen sense of hospitality during this return to worship. Can you step forward, even if for a short while? You can contact the person listed or call the office and we’ll pass your name on to them. We especially are in need of:

+ Ushers – our first contacts for hospitality, and those who assist in our distancing. Contact Brian Jacobs.

+ Altar Guild – our behind the scene “cooks” who help to beautifully and respectfully prepare the “family meal.” Contact Beth Gaede or Bonnie McLellan.

+ Home Communion Ministers – For a while we may have more local people to whom we want to extend our meal who can’t attend just yet. I have imagined what that would be like to not be able to attend, but to have the meal brought to me from the same feast. It’s a way of saying “You belong, we missed you, but God is still with you.” Contact Marilyn and Victor Gebauer.

+ Tech people – As we resume forming assemblies, we will now be live-streaming our liturgies for those unable to attend to expand this assembly outside our walls too. We have installed a station with equipment in the South transept balcony, which needs someone to operate it. Things have been set up to be largely automatic (three new cameras!), but nothing that simple training couldn’t handle. That need begins in July. Contact Dan Hellerich.

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, May 30 *The Holy Trinity*

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Sunday, June 6 *2nd Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

Mark 3:20-35

*In the presence
of God.
Being the presence
of God.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., May 26
11 am – Staff meeting

Sun., May 30
The Holy Trinity
7 am – Worship at a
Distance (last virtual
worship)
9 & 11 am – Virtual
Coffee Hour

Mon. May 31
Memorial Day holiday
Church offices closed

Tues., June 1
Noon – Bible Study

Wed., June 3
11 am – Staff meeting
6 pm – Vicar Committee

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Perhaps over the course of the summer we'll "ease back" to the level of our pre-pandemic Ordinary Time singing (think what some of you call our "summer liturgy"). We'll keep it to a smaller number of hymns at first, so that we can fully sing whatever hymns we do sing. The Psalm verses might be sung by the choir/soloist, some portions of the liturgy that we speak/sing might be omitted. The Great Thanksgiving will be a simpler one. Hang in there, these do not represent a new version of our values, but rather compassionate restraint as we ease back.

Some other observations, to keep it safe for everyone: We can respectfully bow at the sharing of the peace. We'll have distribution, but one server (the Presiding Minister) who will place the intincted bread and wine into our hands. We'll be doing coffee hour after the liturgy outside, and so on.

My hunch is that as we proceed, we will still find our voices, depth, and meaningfulness. We'll rediscover and reconnect with our patterns and re-establish our collective souls at worship. We'll find we can do this meaningfully and safely. Along the way, can we agree to be patient and open to adjustment, and willing to help a little extra? It's the way forward.

- *Cantor Chernien*

First Hand Accounts From Our Partners at Bright Stars of Bethlehem

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick... We all want to unlock hope for our Palestinian siblings during this crisis. Knowing the truth about the facts on the ground in Palestine is one step towards unlocking hope and standing in solidarity for human rights. This report focuses on Gaza and our Dar al-Kalima friends who live there."

In this video Dr. Mitri Raheb and Kris Ducett Wagner interview Palestinians and share updates from last Thursday. Take time to view this powerful update, and then pray for our brothers and sisters who are living through this crisis. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm9PpXvShNU>

Returning to in-person Worship

We've been **invited** to worship God once more in person at Mount Olive, **starting on June 6**. Just like many invitations, this one comes with a request for an R.S.V.P. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we'll all be masked, and seated at a distance from one another in worship. To make sure that there's room for everyone who wants to attend, you are asked to let us know which service you'd like to attend and how many will be in your group/family. It's quick and easy, and, perhaps most importantly, a *temporary* measure until the pandemic is under control.

Every week, a link will be published in *The Olive Branch*. Click on the link, and you'll be taken directly to the R.S.V.P. site. Alternately, the Mount Olive website, (www.mountolivechurch.org), will have a clickable button which will also take you to the R.S.V.P. *For those who do not have access to the internet*, Cha will take your information via a phone call to the office. **Please use the website/Olive Branch link if you have internet access.**

Some things to note:

- The R.S.V.P link will be available starting on the Wednesday before each Sunday's worship. There will be three worship services each Sunday at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon. You will need to choose which service you wish to attend, and then supply your name, your email address, and the number of people who will be attending worship in your group/family.
- You will be limited to 6 people per R.S.V.P., so that all who wish to attend may do so. Extended family groups of more than 6 persons who wish to sit together will need to register by separate families, but may be seated together if space allows.
- Seating in the nave will be done according to the safety guidelines and the procedures developed by the Ushers. This means that you most likely will not get your "preferred" pew, if you have one. Consider it an opportunity to take in the liturgy from different vantage points!
- You will need to R.S.V.P. each week for the following Sunday liturgy.
- Remember, if you choose not to attend in-person worship yet, you may watch the service in a live stream format on your computer starting on June 6. More information about that will be forthcoming. For those without computers, a CD of the worship will be made available as it has been during COVID separation.

We look forward to seeing you and to returning to worshipping together!

Stewardship News

Thank you everyone for your compassion and commitment to Mount Olive. We want to make the process of supporting our church financially easy and convenient for everyone. If you are okay with the delay in the deposit posting to your account, please feel free to continue sending your offering via US mail. If you would like, we have alternative methods for giving that you may want to consider:

- **Bill Pay:** You can set up a regular offering through your bank by calling and talking to someone or by logging in online. You tell your bank how much to send, how often and they will electronically transfer the amount. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.

- **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Set up a regular deduction from your bank account through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. Contact the church office to set this up and a form will be mailed or emailed to you. Complete the form and send it back to the church office either by US mail or via email.

- **Mount Olive Website:** You can donate by credit card through the church website. Visit our site www.mountolivechurch.org, go the very bottom of the home page and a "Donate" link is on the left. This method is good for one-time donations rather than recurring donations as the fees charged to Mount Olive per transaction are higher than the other two methods.

Bach-Tage Materials Now Available

We're delighted to announce that materials for 2021 Virtual *Bach-Tage* June 5 are now available at <https://www.mountolivechurch.org/music/bach-tage/>. There you will find:

- a score for Cantata 85, *Ich bin ein guter Hirt*, to download and print, and
- a translation of the text to assist you.

Links on the homepage will also guide you to these materials. They are common .pdf files, ready for printing. If you have difficulty with getting the materials from the website, contact the church office to get a copy by mail: welcome@mountolivechurch.org, or (612) 827-5919.

You won't need to rehearse in advance as at previous *Bach-Tage* since we will not actually be performing 🙄, but please spend a little time with them and have them available for my presentation and the performance segments on June 5.

Finally, there is no official registration for this *Bach-Tage*. However, most of our expenses are the same as if we were meeting in person. Many of you have made generous gifts to *Bach-Tage* in the past to help us keep our registration cost minimal. If you are in a position to help financially this year, please send your gift to Mount Olive Lutheran Church *Bach-Tage*, 3045 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis MN 55407

- Art Halbardier

CaringBridge Updates

Susan and David Cherwien have established a page on CaringBridge as a way to help keep folks updated regarding Susan's current medical situation. That page can be viewed at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanpalocherwien>.

Flowers for Mount Olive Liturgies

As our congregation prepares for in-person worship, we look forward to many familiar sights, sounds, and, yes, fragrances. You may once again sign up to sponsor flowers for our Sunday liturgies.

You may sponsor both bouquets (\$50 per liturgy), or two donors may share the cost (\$25 each). There may be an upcharge for special requests, such as a certain type or color of flower.

Please call Naomi Peterson (612-824-2228) to let her know what date(s) you would like to sponsor. You may also tell her if you want a person or event to be remembered in that day's worship folder.

From the Cantor

This story appeared a year ago, yet with all that was going on that weekend might have been lost. It has been suggested to me by a couple of you that we should reprint it, along with the link to the hymn. We're past Sunday of Pentecost, but far from living in the Spirit. Enjoy!

[The Story of the Virtual Hymn "O Day Full of Grace"](#) (Pentecost, 2020) **Click the link!**

(A statement from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians)

During Lent of 2020, churches around the world suspended liturgies as a pandemic spread its way around the entire globe, sending people around the world into isolation. Current communities of the faithful had never had to consider faith-life without very regular assemblies for worship. Church musicians had spent their entire efforts "bringing together" – to develop, nurture and encourage a powerful instrument: the assembly at song.

As the world arrived at Easter, many Cantors (Church musicians) were somewhat in a state of shock that we would be going through Holy Week without these gatherings. Many had adapted to new methods of encouraging worship to continue – aided by technology, but nevertheless in isolation, without the ability to accomplish corporate singing.

On Easter Sunday, the Episcopal Church released its video of the hymn "The Strife is O'er" which was put together in a short time span. It was very moving and encouraging to many: to see the church singing together – young voices, older voices, instruments – over 800 people responded with pent-up energy and desire to once again sing together – even if in isolation. This inspired Lutherans to follow their example.

In early May, a plan was proposed to Jim Rindelaub (Executive Director, ALCM) by David Cherwien (ALCM member, Cantor, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, and Artistic Director, National Lutheran Choir). The proposal was that ALCM, with its very congregational-song-centric 1,700-person membership, could launch a similar thing for Lutherans to use in their virtual liturgies on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020. The National Lutheran Choir could help provide what was needed to launch this effort.

ALCM researched the company that helped produce the Episcopal Easter Hymn, and inquired about a project for Lutherans. Kory Caudill, President of Inside Music Nashville, was happy to take this on. Funding was found by ALCM through the generosity of Pauline and John Kiltinen. Cherwien and the National Lutheran Choir scrambled over one weekend to produce the arrangement and the initial 8 voice and organ parts with which others could create submissions. The initial hope was for at least 400 participants. (This number was surpassed by over 900)

The Hymn "O Day Full of Grace" was chosen, a hymn known to most Lutherans. This choice was solidified by a letter the ALCM membership received from very active and longtime friend, board-member Norma Aamodt-Nelson. The letter was sharing the news of her entering hospice; the end-of-life time for her due to cancer. In this letter she quoted the final stanza "When we on our final journey go, we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow . . ."

The arrangement had to be simple, with a very predictable introduction and interludes as to indicate clearly the point at which to breathe and sing in time. Two stanzas were arranged for 4-part high and 4-part low voices (one for each), the standard hymnal harmonization was included, and a unison with descant final stanza. Instrumental parts (kept simple as to encourage all ages) were also created and made available.

The invitation net was cast as wide as possible – including internationally. In the end there were over 1,300 video submissions – 960 singers, 364 instrumentalists. Kory Caudill of Nashville received these, and within one week his company edited them all together, to release in various formats for churches to include in their virtual worship materials for Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Soli deo gloria.



Building Our Home

The series highlighting some of the specific properties that will be funded in part by the Building Our Home initiative continues this week. It is hoped that this will make the work more concrete (literally and figuratively).

Please note, a glossary of some basic terms will be included at the end of this section for each week of this series since there are some terms used in the property descriptions that may not be familiar to all readers. This section will repeat each week.

Mary Hall is a new development in downtown Saint Paul providing 99 units of workforce housing targeted at individuals making 60% AMI or lower. Workforce housing is a special category of affordable housing intended to make it possible for those working entry level or service sector jobs to live close to their employers in the downtown core areas. These areas typically offer housing that is far out of reach to many who work in those areas, forcing them to live far from their workplaces, necessitating lengthy commutes. Workforce housing is not only important in the world of affordable housing issues, but also helps alleviate the climate justice concerns of long commutes and the infrastructure necessitated by those commutes.

Commonly Used Terms and Abbreviations

AMI: Average Median Income; the average amount made by households in a given area; currently, the AMI for the Twin Cities metro area for a family of four is \$103,400 (one earner making \$49.71 per hour). As one example, 30% AMI, often a measure of housing considered to be the most affordable, would be \$31,000 (one earner making \$14.90 per hour), making a three-bedroom apartment affordable at \$806 per month. For comparison, the average rent for a three-bedroom unit in the Twin Cities in 2019 was \$1,624.

Affordable Housing: Defined as housing that can be obtained and maintained for 30% or less of a household's monthly income. By definition, housing costs include all costs related to maintaining a home - utilities, trash disposal, insurance, and the like - not just rent or mortgage.

Supportive Housing: Affordable, long-term, community-based housing with on-site support services such as employment counseling, addiction recovery support, etc. for people with multiple barriers to getting and keeping housing.

The Initiative

Working with three non-profit affordable housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing, Mount Olive is working to build over 2100 units of affordable and supportive housing with a funding goal of 21.3 million dollars. Through our Neighborhood Ministry leadership, Mount Olive is seeking partnerships with its Twin Cities sister congregations of the Evangelical Church of America, along with other faith communities, organizations, and individuals.



Virtual Coffee Hour

As we return to in-person worship on June 6, this Sunday, May 30, will be the last virtual coffee hour.

For those who found 9 am to be too early for Sunday coffee hour, adults can join at 9 am OR 11 am (or both!) for at least the remainder of April. There will be weekly video calls using Google Meet from 9-10 am AND 11am-12pm, and 9-9:30 for the kids' room.

Use the same link, below, whether you want to join at 9 or at 11. Join by video on a smartphone or computer or join by phone only to participate in the informal conversations. The meeting links and phone numbers are below. If you join with a computer, you don't need to install anything or have an account, but if you'd like to join on a phone or tablet, you will need to install the Google Meet app and log in with a Google account. If you have questions about how to join feel free to call Katie Krueger at 419-344-2727 or email katherinerkrueger@gmail.com.

Coffee & Tea (9-10 a.m. AND 11 a.m. -12 noon)

<https://meet.google.com/snm-zssf-dni>

(US) +1 407-545-7381 / PIN: 641 572 935#

Meeting code: snm-zssf-dni

Cupcakes & Cookies - Kids' room (9:00-9:30 a.m.)

<https://meet.google.com/vep-nyof-fzz>

(US) +1 216-930-8951 / PIN: 766 845 823#

Meeting code: vep-nyof-fzz

Book Discussion Group

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group will meet virtually on the second Saturday of each month until we can meet again in person.

For June 12, they will read *Our Man in Havana*, by Graham Greene, and for July 10, they will read *The End of the Affair*, also by Graham Greene..

They are using the GoToMeeting platform. Just click on the link below. If you prefer, you may join by phone.

Join the discussion from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://tinyurl.com/y4knn7o3>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free):
1 866 899 4679

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

Access Code: 998-208-989

Regular link to the Tuesday Noon Bible Study

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study is the same every week. Copy this text and print it off or keep it on your desk for easy reference each week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qs46v5>

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States: +1 (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 179-693-565

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://tinyurl.com/y274v5rs>

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Susan Cherwien; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Rhoda Nelson; Lisa Nordeen; Jerry Ostlund; Dwight Penas; Evelyn Royce; Pariann Schenk; Don Shifflet; James Wilkes; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Jodi Royce*, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; *Kjell Thompson*; relative of Nancy Anderson; *Danna Nelson, Jacques*, friends of Jim Bargmann; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Sara Brunette*, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling*, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *Greg Eklund*, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *Susan Bary*, friend of Judy Graves; *Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong)*, friend of Eunice Hafemeister; *Lynn Kernkamp*, friend of Peggy Hoeft; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Ann Clark*, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; *Martha Boomgaarten*, sister of Jack Kruger; *Danielle Pitzgen*, friend of Ellen Kormanik; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper*, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Janet Freeburg*, friend of Lisa Nordeen; *Michael Waechter*, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; *Kathleen Aunstad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Sue Smith and Steve Swanson*, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Vince DeLusia*, friend of Cynthia Prosek; *Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesher Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Miranda Alvis*, niece of Tim Sneer; *Carrie*, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; *David Duran*, friend of *Kevin Vasquez*; *Andrew Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Kianna Crump*, niece of James Wilkes; *Patrick Clark, Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Annie Hose-Ryan, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Marcia Van Gorden*, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Anne-Marie Lundberg*, cousin of Eric Zander; *Karen Lange Dock,*

Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

At the death of: *Jay Heffern*, friend of Gary Pagel; Mary Jones, mother of Carolyn Hellerich and grandmother of Dan Hellerich; *Walter Werner*, father of Randy Werner.

Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace: We pray for all the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: *Solveig & Philip*, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and *Tyson Crosby*, relative of the Crosby family. (*Italics indicates non-member friends of Mount Olive.*)

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

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