

Worship & Music Committee meeting online: via Zoom Jan. 5, 2021

Present: Pastor Scott, Linda Longardner, Sherry Scheider, Carolyn Ciaccio, Liz Beale, and Susie Smalley

Pastor read Luke 6 from the daily lectionary (including 'The Golden Rule')

Old Business:

† Advent – We sang “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” each week during Advent. Bob & Dave included video of the wreath at the church being lit for all but the first week of Advent. Some people lit their own candles at home.

† Christmas Eve & Christmas – Christmas Eve service via Zoom was, of course, way different than past Christmas Eves, however it was a genuinely nice service, nevertheless. Worship was enhanced by some extra music: Claire on the keyboard, Monica, violin and piano, and Linda on the organ. The Smalleys led two of the congregational hymns as well.

Christmas morning’s “Lessons and Carols” service by the Synod was enjoyed by some members of our congregation. The words for the carols, however, were not displayed. Rhoda Fox commented afterwards to both Pastor and Phil that she really appreciates how the words are included with our hymns. [So a big thank you to Bob Black and Dave Musser!]

New Business:

† reciting the Creed during Zoom worship services – Since we began worshipping via Zoom, rather than at church, we have recited one of the creeds each week, mostly, the Apostle’s Creed. During Advent, the Nicene Creed was recited. On Christmas Eve, and for the subsequent two Sundays, however, Pastor skipped reciting the creed during our service, as that is an option. This past Sunday, Don Weise mentioned that he noticed it was missing, and Pastor explained why he chose not to include it. It was brought up again today, along with the question of whether or not to mute people during the recitation of the Creed (which led also to a discussion about doing the same for the Lord’s Prayer) and Pastor decided that it will put it back in this coming Sunday, and we will switch back to the Apostle’s Creed.

† upcoming worship services – Sherry asked if there is a date on which we can plan on being able to worship again together, in person. Unfortunately, the answer to that is no. Since none of this situation is under our control, we cannot make any decisions as to when we will be able to reopen our doors for everyone to be able to worship together. Therefore, we will just continue to plan on meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

† Wednesdays during Lent – Susie skeptically wondered if the Holden Evening Prayer would work very well during Lent, and the consensus was no! Linda suggested worshipping in a different way during Lent (i.e. by doing a service that isn’t mainly singing). We discussed for a bit and Pastor said that we will have evening prayer service this year, he just doesn’t know yet what that is going to look like. He will think it over and let us know what he comes up within the next couple weeks.

† Holy Communion – Liz commented, at the beginning of our meeting, that she feels she is really in *need* of receiving Holy Communion again; she misses it tremendously. She made a couple suggestions (people being able to pick up sealed communion packages at church, people communing themselves at home during Zoom worship along with fellow congregants, etc.), but Pastor said that Communion at our church is “...kinda on hold ‘cause our community is kinda on hold”. He commented that nobody is being refused Communion, but rather we are all in exile. He reassured everyone that he is always available to hear confessions and for people to receive forgiveness of sins through him, a called and ordained minister, *any* day...not just on Sunday mornings.

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at 1pm, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted, Susie Smalley