

Projection in Worship at Trinity Church
From the Pastor
September 16, 2016

Dear Trinity Church,

Two weeks ago I introduced to the Adult Sunday School class a decision the Session recently made regarding our worship services. What follows is a summary of the Session's decision and some of the rationale behind it, along with an invitation to speak with me or any one of the elders if you have any questions.

Our Directory for the Public Worship of God reminds us that, "Because a service of public worship is in its essence a meeting of the triune God with his chosen people, a worship service consists of two principal parts: those elements which are performed on behalf of God (through a representative voice) and those elements which are performed by the congregation (through their own or a representative voice)" (DPW I, C.1).

The main ways the congregation participates with its own voice in worship is through congregational singing and the recitation of creeds and confessions. During the Auditorium renovation project, the Session spent some time reflecting on Trinity's congregational singing. You'll remember how vigorous and robust it was in the Social Hall, and then how delighted we all were with the sounds we heard when we returned to worship in the Auditorium. We believe that enthusiastic congregational singing from the heart pleases the Lord, encourages one another and reflects the mandate given in Psalm 100 to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" This, of course, is also the text that inspired the renovation project in the first place and that continues to challenge us every Sunday.

In its reflection on how to further promote and encourage our corporate responses of confession and praise the Session made the following decision:

"The Session has determined to make use of video projection in worship, projecting primarily those elements of the service that are to be performed by the congregation through their own voice, namely the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to the praise of God and the edification of one another, and the recitation, whether in unison or responsively, of corporate confessions of faith or sin".

In making this decision the Session gave consideration to the following:

(over)

Considerations:

1. Our gratitude to the Lord for the current culture and practice at Trinity Church of singing to the Lord with full voice, both in unison and in harmony.
2. The physiological benefits of lifting up our heads in worship and singing.
3. The corporate benefits of singing from the same “page”.
4. The desire to limit projection in worship to those elements that are performed by the congregation.
5. The need for all projected material to be clearly visible and easily readable from all parts of the Auditorium.
6. The strong preference that projected songs mirror their printed counterparts in the Trinity Hymnal, Blue Folder and bulletin inserts, and that they include both text and tune.
7. The functions and capabilities of the new lighting and the ceiling-mounted projector in the Auditorium; the increased availability of affordable electronic versions of the music we sing at Trinity; and the desire to be able to project during worship seamlessly and with a concern for the ease of use of our audio-visual team.
8. The ways projection also serves:
 - i. Parents of small children who struggle to juggle children and hymnal
 - ii. Those for whom holding a hymnal is a challenge due to limited dexterity or mobility
 - iii. Members and guests who arrive at worship during a confession of faith or mid-hymn
 - iv. Those who might want to raise their hands during singing in praise to God

We are now ready to implement this change in our worship services. We are especially grateful to God for David Askey and his gifts and abilities in service to the Lord and to Trinity Church in making this possible. We encourage you all to continue to sing with full and united voice to God in praise. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to speak to me or to any one of the elders.

In Christ and for the Session,
Pastor Westerveld