

## Update for March 25

This update addresses the relocation of the organ console and choir, and the impact to music; specifically the logistics of making music in the space from my perspective at the organ. Our mission is to provide the highest quality sacred music to bring beauty to our liturgy. We charge the choirs to lead, and inspire. The long-standing arrangement of the organ console and choir in the rear gallery and the organ (pipes) in the chancel presented a myriad of difficulties in achieving these goals to their potential.

When seated at the organ console, I experienced a delay from the time the key was depressed to the time the sound was heard. Though only a fraction of a second, it was enough time to wreak havoc on fast tempos and complicated rhythms. Mitigating this was a constant struggle with varying results.

For the choirs; singing accompanied music was challenging as it was very difficult to hear, let alone feel supported by the organ. Keeping good intonation and rhythmic integrity proved to be a formidable task, even for our very talented choirs. For the choir to lead hymns, the organ had to be loud enough so they could hear it, which often led to a battle of muscle which at times could leave all of our eardrums a little sore. Sound balance was nearly impossible to achieve. Those seated in the chancel could barely hear the choir while the organ was playing and the choir still struggled to hear the organ. This left the conductor to make sense of all of it! Many times, Chris and I were playing and conducting essentially blind, particularly at Evensong. I'd like to think we became adept at making it work, but it was far from ideal, and often a very stressful way of producing satisfying musical results.

The resolution of all of these issues is especially important as we begin to broadcast our services. Both video and audio recording would be nearly impossible to capture in our former arrangement, to say nothing of the physical space the cameras, video booth and choirs require.

I am happy to report that in these few short weeks since the move, playing from the chancel is a completely different and wonderful experience. I know there will be a

vast improvement when we can work in concert with the architecture and acoustics. I look forward to the choirs' return so we can reunite the choir and organ and enable even more beautiful worship.

-Charlie Sega, Organist & Director of Music