

Music Ministry Report 2022

This has been an eventful year for the music program at our church. It was a busy year for many reasons, but the highlight of the year was the Mozart Requiem, which members of the FPC Choir performed on May 22. It was also a year of transition, as Florence Rayburn, the beloved director of the choir, retired after decades of leading our singers.

As mentioned above, on the evening of May 22, members of the FPC choir performed Mozart's Requiem under the direction of Florence Rayburn. This was the culmination of months of rehearsals, and the evening included visual art as well as poetry read by Andrew Milton. It was a wonderful and worshipful evening, and we are so thankful to all who were involved in this endeavor. It was professionally recorded and is available for purchase through the church office.

The same evening, we celebrated Florence's many years of ministry, as she has labored for decades and has set a high standard for church choral music that is rare in churches in our time. The "Florence Fete" was an evening filled with testimonies given by family and friends as well as a skit involving the choir. We are so thankful for the way in which Florence has used her talents to serve our Lord by elevating the standard of choral music that we are blessed to hear each week.

We are so grateful to the Lord for Elsie Dye and her using her gifts at the organ each week, for Nico Roberts for playing the cello faithfully during our 11:00 service each Sunday, and to Amy Lawty for her beautiful playing of our Deacon's offering on the first Sunday of each month. We are also thankful for our new (as of September) choir accompanist, Marissa Caswell.

The Chorister's ministry continued for children ages 3-13. Each Wednesday during the school year, we meet together in the choir room to work on vocal development, after which the 3-6 year olds practice separately with Amy Lawty and the 7-13 year olds work with Melissa McMillan and Florence Rayburn. The Choristers recently prepared for the 4:00 Christmas Eve service, but they also sang several times during worship in the spring.

As in past years, we ended the year with the Christmas Eve services. The Choristers and various soloists and small groups sang in the 4:00 service and the adult choir sang in the 11:00 service. We are so thankful to those who played a part in these worship services.