

Worship Service Music - "Online"

No one can argue that this has been a year of CHANGE! We are so fortunate that during these long months of COVID-19, we have had the technology, as well as the talents of those who understand it, to provide services via Facebook live streaming and also YouTube. And as with any situation involving the internet, sometimes it works better than other times!

One big change that implementing our online services has brought about is the use of copyrighted music laws. To follow the rules of copyrighted music on line, we have purchased a streaming license. This license enables us to use the songs that are on their copyrighted list. The songs include the very old hymns, most of the newer hymns and many of the contemporary hymns. We are allowed to sing them, but need special permission to play any type of recording, CD's or DVD's, even if they have already been purchased for use in services that are not on the internet.

What does this mean for our church? It means that we can sing the songs on the copyrighted list, but we have to provide our own accompaniment. For example, the choir can't sing with previously purchased CD's/DVD's. We are allowed to play our own instruments (piano, clavichord, guitar, etc.). That is why most of our music has been played on the piano/clavichord for the last year. So when we sing a contemporary song, you may think it is a song from the hymnal simply because we are using the piano. Don't worry, we are still providing the congregation with a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary hymns.

You may wonder what might happen if a person or organization ignores copyright laws on Face Book and YouTube. One or more of the following may occur – 1, a song may be muted. 2, the service may get blocked. 3, our YouTube channel could be penalized. 4, we could be required to pay the music rights owner. Computerized systems are in place on Facebook and YouTube that identify song melodies, then check to see what copyrights are in place for that song.

Please understand that the worship team is always striving to create a meaningful service with the limitations of our small, but mighty church!