

Songlines

Notes from the musical staff

Seeing the world on purpose

October 7 is World Communion Sunday, when we celebrate the worldwide Christian community, and two of Pastor Linda's sermons in the month of October relate to our ideas about 'the world'. Now more than ever, our own lives interconnect with those of people the other side of the world, even if we don't know each other. Markets, diseases, and the impact of climate change, are all international in scope. And we have a dazzling amount of information about the world at our fingertips, whenever we listen to the radio, turn on the TV, or surf the internet.

Having the world at your fingertips can be a little disconcerting. With so much information to choose from, how do you choose what to spend time on? I recently came across the web site of the General Board of Discipleship (www.gbod.org), and in a flash, it seemed, I had spent a whole hour looking at free music downloads, 'music musings', lists of Spanish-Hispanic-Latino hymns, recommended books, prayers for the victims of terrorism, hymns about Hurricane Katrina, articles about Charles Wesley (Methodist leader and hymn writer), and many other things besides.

What anchors us, in the face of so much choice and information, is membership of a community, and the sense of purpose that comes with that. In the back of my mind, I know that my job is to find good music for us to use at Summit, and that helps me filter what I find. As it happens, I was looking for good hymns to sing when we had a visiting Spanish-speaking preacher (Lupina Guadalupe), and it was easy to pick out the ones that would work for our particular church. African American songs also work very well at Summit – there's something about their freedom and energy that this congregation responds to. To me, exploring music from other cultures in this way is truly 'seeing the world on purpose',

There are also worlds to see within Columbus itself: worlds of poverty as well as wealth, black and white, religious and unbelieving, working and retired, gay and straight, healthy and sick, student and learning disabled. Members of each these worlds can be found within our own congregation. Each of us, in a way, is 'seeing the world on purpose' when we put aside our differences, our separate lives and private concerns, and come to Summit. What draws us together and bridges our differences is the warmth of this community, the ideals that it is founded on, and the support that it gives us in trying to put those ideals into practice.

Welcome to students!

A warm welcome to any students at Summit this fall, and an open invitation to bring your voices or instruments to church in helping to make music here. Please drop in!

Sheena Phillips, Director of Music

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