



MELODIES, LYRICS, AND LOVE

According to Hallmark Channel, February is the month of “Love Ever After.” This is of course because Valentine’s Day falls on February 14th every year. So, in addition to the Hallmark movies, I am sure you will be hearing many love songs as well! Ah yes, the power of putting loving words to music just makes the heart swoon. We might think about Dean Martin singing Amore. Or here are some of my favorite words, which come from Jim Croce, “Cause every time I tried to tell you the words just came out wrong, So I’ll have to say, “I love you” in a song.”



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To be fair, the idea of putting loving words to music goes all the way back to the Bible. Song of Solomon, anyone? Anyways, historically there were many reasons to put words to music. One of the primary reasons was to help people memorize things. You see, before the printing press, many people were illiterate and there were only a few copies of manuscripts to go around. Setting the Psalms and other doctrines to music helped people learn key loving truths about God by memorizing songs.

Even within our own Lutheran tradition, Martin Luther saw the importance of setting words to music. While he wasn’t known as the mushy sentimental type of person when read the words, “A Mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing.” I’m sure all your minds started to put the melody of the hymn along with the words. This allowed you to remember a deep powerful and loving truth about our God, that He is our Mighty Fortress! Furthermore, not only were reminded of that truth, but it points you back to the words of Psalm 46 and the powerful promises our Triune God lays out for us there.

This continues to this day, as modern hymn and praise song writers put the words of Scripture to music to help us remember the loving truths of God. For example, here are words from Psalm 104:1,2, “. . . Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent.” Chris Tomlin used these words to come up with the song, “How Great is Our God.”

I share all these examples, using all different types of worship, to remind all of us when there are moments we are in darkness, and need the Lord’s Light to shine, to sing a bit of a hymn or praise song to yourself. In doing so you will see Jesus’ love and encouragement come to you with 20/20 clarity. Furthermore, as you lift your hands up in worship, he will lift you up. We were recently reminded of this by David in Psalm 27:6, “Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.” So go sing, sing a song, sing out loud, sing out strong!

In the Love Ever After of Jesus,
Pastor Matt

WHEN BEING STILL IS THE BEST OPTION by Catherine Boyle from <https://www.keyministry.org/>



Discovering a Steadfast Hope

“...Be still, and know that I am God...” - Psalm 46:10

One day several years ago, a day like many others before it, the fervent prayer for one of my young adult children was answered yes, while an equally fervent prayer for my other young adult child was (again) answered no. On the same day, this familiar scripture passage was the day’s devotion. The passage intends to convey peace and hope, even on days when life holds anything but. For that day, I chose not to wallow in

despair, though admittedly there were some tears. Facing the “no” answer time and again makes you a little less sensitive to the sting, but the sting still smarts. But that day, even though there appeared to be no hope, I chose to have hope. I forced myself to sit still, and know that even another “no” is part of God’s plan, and I have a choice whether or not to trust God.

An incredibly valuable thing I’ve learned in hearing "no" repeatedly in prayers for this child is that the love my husband and I have for both of our children has become thoroughly separated from their accomplishments, and is solely focused on who each is as a human. With a long-delayed mental health diagnosis for one of them and an entirely different difficult season for the other, the situations each has faced have driven me to the bottom of my parental ability to make things better. I have been spiritually flattened. **THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS ON A FLAT SURFACE ARE WORDS ON THE PAGE. HIS WORDS ON THE PAGE. PEACE. BE STILL. AND KNOW THAT I AM IS STILL GOD.**

So, I chose to believe that He will nurture my child’s hurting heart. And we moved forward with a new plan of action. God measures our faithfulness by overcoming, by working with what we’re given, not by results. Results are up to Him. Overcoming is in part doing what we can with what we have, even when part of what we have to overcome are mental health struggles.

Being still and knowing that God is in charge also means seeking the gifts in each person. Proverbs 24:3-4 says that wisdom builds a house, and knowledge fills its rooms with rare and beautiful treasures. These treasures are in part seeking and finding value in every person in the family, no matter their ability or disability. Building a family legacy in part means to find the place where each person fits. The Church has the opportunity to show the world that God’s Words are true. When the Church digs in to love, understand and be patient with all people—even those with mental health struggles—it builds our spiritual legacy.

Hope in Jesus is not in vain. He’s working all things together for my good, and the good of my family, because we love Him and each other. By trusting that God sees everything, and He knows best, we patiently wait for God to act. When He does, the outcome is often far better than what I asked for in the first place. The key to seeing Him work is for me to sit still, and know that He has a better plan yet to unfold.

SIGNS OF LENT 2020 Lent and Easter Series Information

U-Turn, Stop, Merge, Yield, One Way, Dead End, Road Narrows, Food, Cross Walk, Road Work Ahead, these are all road signs you run into as you make daily drives on the winding, sloping, sometimes at a standstill, roads of Seattle. During this Lenten Season we will also see how Jesus gives these signs to others, and how they are signs for our lives. Then as we go out from RLC we will see how we can share these Signs of Lent driving down the path to Easter, our neighborhoods and beyond!

Below you will see the themes and scriptures for the services. You will also see when evening and combined services are during Lent. Furthermore, we will be providing a Lenten devotion through Lutheran Hour Ministries called, "Deliver Us: Jesus Set Us Free." So, keep an eye out for that over the next few weeks. Finally, we will have Wednesday Evening get togethers over Lent and are working out the details of those. Once we get them finalized, we will update you! Please be in prayer for a blessed Lent and Easter here at RLC that God will bless it richly!

Signs of Lent Schedule:

- February 26 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM – U-Turn- OT: Joel 2:12-13 NT: **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**
Gospel: Luke 9:51-56
- March 1 – Stop – OT: Isaiah 55:8-11 NT: 1 Peter 2:21-25 **Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**
- March 8 – Merge – **OT: Exodus 12:3-7, 13** NT: 1 Peter 1:17-21 Gospel: John 19:31-35
- March 15 – Yield – OT: Isaiah 53:10-12 NT: Philippians 2:5-11 **Gospel: Luke 22:39-46**
- March 22 – One Way – OT: Isaiah 35:8-10 NT: Acts 4:8-12 **Gospel: John 14:1-6**
- March 29 – 9:30 am Combined Service – Dead End – OT: Isaiah 53:7-9 NT: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Gospel: John 11:20-27
- April 5 – Palm Sunday – Road Narrows – OT: Zechariah 9:9-12 NT: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Mark 11:1-10
- April 9 – 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday – Food – OT: Jeremiah 31:31-34 NT: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel: Matthew 26:26-30
- April 10 – 7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae – Here or Community – Cross Walk
- April 12 – Easter Sunday – Road Work Ahead – OT: Hosea 6:1-3 NT: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10





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THANK YOU QUILTERS!

Thank you, quilters! Our January meeting was attended by nine women and five quilts were assembled. Keep up the good work! Hope to see as many (or more) at the February meeting on Wednesday, February 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Remember everyone is welcome, no special skills needed,