



The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

01/21/2021

Volume 1, Issue 40

I thought I'd take you all behind the scenes a bit this week to show you some of the work that goes into creating online worship services. Some churches have tech teams who put together and edit pre-recorded services, but Peoples just has me. The fact that I live stream about 3/4 of every Sunday's service means that I only have to edit about 1/4 of the content.

Video editing is tedious. For example, to put lyrics on screen for a hymn, first I take the video that I filmed of Doris playing the piano and make sure it's just the song without any false starts or trailing ends of conversation. Then I watch through the video to mark out where each verse begins. I create a graphic with lyrics for each verse, download it, bring it into

my video editing software, format it, resize it, and time it to be on screen for the duration of the verse. I repeat this process for each verse, which usually takes a half hour or more for each hymn. For offertories, I'll show a series of pictures of the church, adjusting the length and movement of each picture to work within the length of the song. For All Saints in November and again for our Longest Night service in December, I put together a video naming the people in our church and community who have died over the past year, layering in the sound of bell chime for each name.

Sometimes I'll get a little fancier with the hymns, digitally adding in a harmony line on the chorus over the original recording of Doris. It's more of a creative challenge that helps break

up the full day every week that I spend putting together the pre-recorded sections for each Sunday's service.

As many of you know, I joined the chancel choir of my home church when I was 14, which was how I started to learn passages of scripture and fall in love with them. I love the way that voices can come together to tell a story: whether it's discordant notes painting a picture of chaos, or a duet from the perspective of two characters, or voices overlapping each other like the sound of an overflowing cup. When we sing in harmony, we vocally represent the different gifts we offer to God by voicing our praise in the same words but different notes.

When I was 16, we sang an arrangement of Come, Thou Fount of Every

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Happening This Week
 - Send your Selfies!
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Pastor Leia Continued

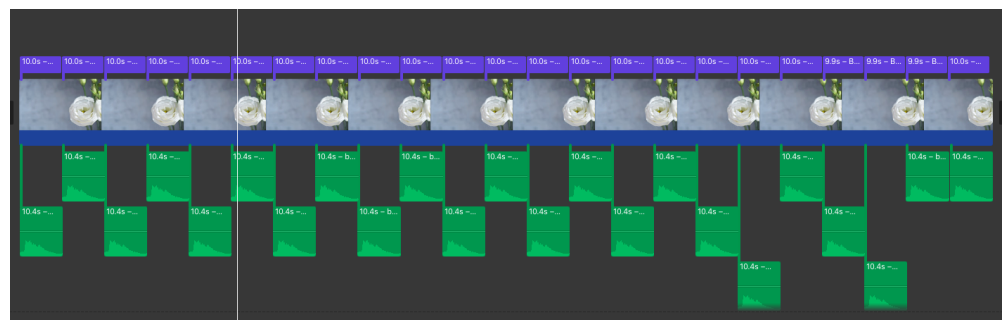
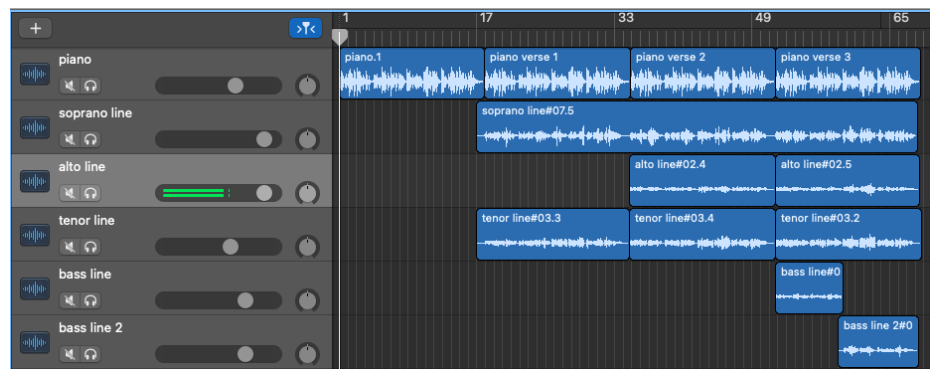
Blessing that inspired me to learn the hymn in different parts and keys. In addition to being a lovely expression of hope and promise, it holds a special place among hymns for me for being the first one I could sing both melody and harmony lines to.

We recently celebrated the Baptism of the Lord, which always falls the Sunday after Epiphany, so naturally I picked hymns about water. I learned additional lines of harmony to record all four parts of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (obviously I transposed the bass line up an octave). To do that, I put on headphones so that I can hear the piano but not re-record it as I'm recording the vocal line. Then I go back and record a second line over it, and another, and adjust the volume of each to blend better. By the standards of the multiple concert vocalists and musicians in my family, my audio mixing skills are pretty basic, but I miss singing with other people, and recording harmonies lets me pretend, just for a moment, that I'm not singing alone.

In the Before Times, I would think about the first verse of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing: "streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise." In this season, I'm stuck on the second verse:

"Here I raise my ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come, and
I hope by thy good pleasure
safely to arrive at home." In Hebrew, "eben-ezer" is literally "this far I have come by God's help" and was the name of a stone monument set up as a reminder to the people in the book of 1 Samuel.

This far we have come with
God's help and with God's help,
we can keep going. With God's
help, we, too, can safely arrive at
home.



Happening This Week

Tuesday, January 26, 8pm: Bible study on Facebook Live; 1 John 3

Wednesday, January 27, 8pm: evening prayer service on Facebook Live

Thursday, January 28, 5pm: virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2021-01-28/>

Sunday, January 31, 10am: worship on Facebook Live followed by annual congregational meeting on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2021-01-31/>

God of Love, We've Known Division

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage

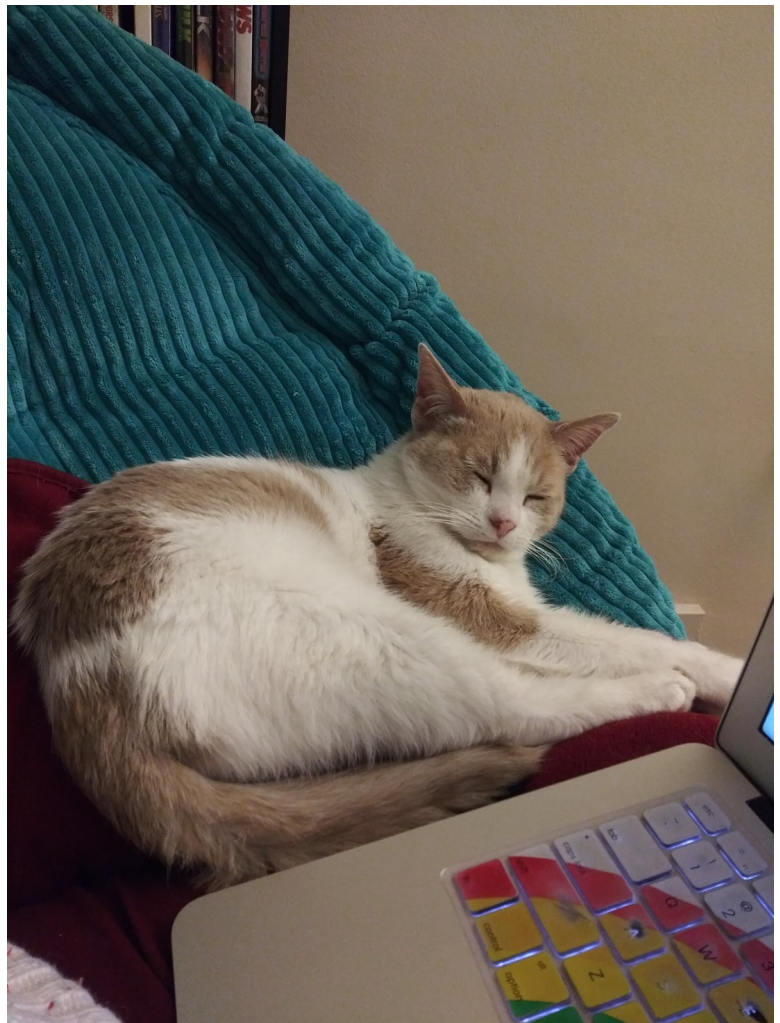
1. God of love, we've known di - vi - sion and we've seen its aw-ful cost.
2. Turn us, Lord, from what di - vides us— fear that drives us far a - part.
3. May we all, in con-ver - sa - tion, speak the truth and lis-ten well.
4. You have chal-lenged us to good-ness; you have shown a kind-er way.

We have strug-gled as a na - tion, and there's much that we have lost.
greed that leads to great in - jus - tice, ra - cist ways that break your heart.
May we hear, a - cross this na - tion, sto - ries oth - ers have to tell.
It's your love that now in - spires us as we seek a bet - ter day.

We have been a house di - vi - ded—and, di - vi - ded, we can't stand.
May we seek what brings to - ge - ther— hearts that bear each oth - er's pain,
May we learn from oth - er cul - tures and be blessed by their world - view;
May we end our harsh di - vi - sion; may we stop the hate and fear.

May our na - tion be u - ni - ted; give us peace through-out this land.
care and mer - cy toward our neigh-bors, love that wel - comes stran-gers in.
May we serve with one a - noth - er— lov - ing oth - ers, lov - ing you.
Make us one, Lord, as a na - tion; may we be u - ni - ted here.

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New Hymns: www.carolynhymns.com | Email: carolynhymns@gmail.com



Celebration Selfies!

2020 was certainly a year of obstacles and uncertainty for us all. We may have been far from our loved ones during holidays, birthdays may have felt solitary, and, at times, it may have felt like a sense of normalcy was impossibly out-of-reach. Now, in 2021, we're seeing our family and friends start to get the new vaccine, there's the new potential of the Biden administration, and there's a palpable sense of hope!

So, in light of the New Year, we'd like to celebrate! Though we're still worshipping apart, there's hope for in-person worship on the horizon! As our friends and members get vaccinated, we'd like to see your vaccine selfies! Let's celebrate our collective strength as a congregation by sharing this next step with one another. If you'd like to share yours, send it to:

ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org



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Worship:

Streamed Weekly on Facebook Live

at 10:00 am every Sunday

Prayer Service:

Streamed Live each Wednesday on Facebook

Live at 8:00 pm