



Dear Friends in Christ,



This was not an easy letter to write. I wanted to let you know that I have accepted a new call as the Music Director at The Falls Church, Episcopal, in Falls Church, Virginia beginning in July. My last official day at St. James' will be June 22nd, though because of pre-existing travel plans and the start of the summer schedule my last Sunday on the bench will be Pentecost, June 9th – the end of our program year.

Over the past two years it has been one of my greatest pleasures to serve with you and to lead this wonderful congregation in singing God's praises as we make a joyful noise together. I am honored to have been able to share with Joe+ and Pilar+ in liturgical leadership, to work with wonderful colleagues and friends in the office, and to make music with our fantastic choir who week in and week out unfailingly put up with whatever crazy new idea I've come up with.

St. James' will always hold a special place in my heart. This is a congregation I have been not only blessed to serve as a staff member but blessed to be a fellow traveler on this journey of faith, and as the hymn says, there really is a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place! I am grateful beyond words for all that we have shared together, and as I complete my ministry with you, I know that God will raise up the next leader for the amazing music ministry here soon. As Bishop DeDe said at our Celebration of Ministry, St. James' best days are ahead of us, and I look forward to hearing all about them and cheering you on from the sidelines.

God bless you all.

Justin

Justin Oei, Organist/Choirmaster
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