

Las Flores Church of the Nazarene Worship Ministry

What an honor and privilege it is to be able to gather together as a part of the Body of Christ, joining as with one voice to lift our praise, thanksgiving, and petitions to God. Scripture tells us of the various ways we can come before God. The Psalms tell us to enter with “thanksgiving and praise” (Psalm 100), Hebrews 12 instructs us to worship with “reverence and awe”, and Ephesians 3 writes about the “freedom and confidence” with which we can approach God, assured of his glad welcome (all because of His gift of grace). Jesus then tells us in Matthew that we can even come to him in a broken state of “burdens and weariness” (Matthew 12). It’s great to know that we can worship God *just as we are*. Ultimately, it seems God just wants us to *turn* to Him, acknowledging His presence and recognizing our need and His provision. Music is a gift from God to all of us, giving us a special way to pour out our hearts to Him, coming honestly before a gracious God. It is such an honor and privilege each week to be able to gather together as a part of the Body of Christ, joining as with one voice to lift our praise, thanksgiving, and petitions to God. For me, there is nothing like making music in the Lord’s name!

As we all know this has been a unique year in our church’s history, being without a lead pastor for over a year. I’ve been humbled by the opportunity and trust to be able to lead our staff during this interim. We’ve grown closer as a team this year, meeting together each Thursday morning to prayerfully discuss and plan many things concerning the life of the church. It’s been great to work with such a capable group of people (Larry, Janis, Karisa, AJ and Taryn) and get such a sense from them that they are willing to serve wherever needed. One of the most meaningful parts of the year for me has been the opportunity to work so closely with Pastor Larry. His wisdom, dependability, kind-frankness, and great encouragement has been an absolute provision of God for this season of my ministry.

One of the privileges during the interim has been the opportunity to preach more. It’s not something I look forward to as I always feel wholly inadequate! But it is an amazing thing to sit in a room with a portion of God’s word, reading and studying it, researching commentaries and ideas for hours and hours and hours, crying out to God in honesty and desperation often throughout the day “God, I have nothing. I need help!”, and then beginning to get a clear picture of how God wants it communicated on this particular day and for this particular people. Those days of study have been the biggest days of spiritual growth for me this year.

I am also so grateful for the people I get to fellowship with and make music with among the worship team. They are gifted musicians, humble servants, and great friends. It’s a group of brothers and sisters that are a blessing to work with and laugh with, sharing in ministry and affection for one another. God continues to provide new people to serve and fill the gaps occasionally left by people moving on to new locations or ministries. I’ve been at LF for over nineteen years now and have always seen God provide. So faithful! I’m also grateful to this team and the church for being so open to allow PLNU Worship Arts students to participate. Throughout the year many of these student musicians come up and join in with the weekly team, and several times a year the church has been gracious enough to allow a whole worship team to come up lead the church. These students always count that a huge privilege. Thanks for the ways you encourage them by the way you enter into worship and the way you connect with them individually. It leaves them with a wonderfully high view of what the Body of Christ can be.

I say this each year, that in any church there are inevitably a myriad of musical tastes. Each week I find myself asking God for wisdom to balance the old, the new, the fast, and the slow. But I am still more concerned that the worship raised by our Church on Sunday is pleasing to God, with sincere words, hearts that are seeking, and thoughts that are “under the captivity of Christ.” I know that takes many of you putting your musical preferences aside for the sake of glorifying God together. It is a beautiful thing to see people of different backgrounds and ages worshipping God *together*. It is such a great encouragement is to be able to look up and see you pouring out your hearts to God, be it through joy or brokenness, and I carry the trust you give me humbly and ask each week for God’s help to lead us into His throne room. I know He will be faithful to reveal himself as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, throwing off all that hinders us and living our lives as a worship offering.

In Him,

George Williamson