



SUNDAY, JULY 19TH MORNING MESSAGE

THIRD SUNDAY OF JULY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

In a strange way, I have had more Sundays “off” in the last four or five months than in the last fifty years. One of my colleagues in ministry recently noted that Thursday was his new Sunday, since that is when the church he is serving is recording their worship services.

At the beginning of our isolation and “safer at home” time, we recorded only sermons. We actually recorded several on one day, and while that was exhausting, it was also time efficient.

Then we recorded a whole worship service, with music. That was fun, but sound and camera angles were problematic.

For the past several weeks, we’ve recorded music at different times, and the “talking parts” that I do at another time. This allows us to change the camera angles, and even the staging of our service.

More recently, we have added other faces and voices giving a minute for mission and announcements.

The most recent addition has been the ZOOM Fellowship Hour, which took place on the first Sunday of July, but didn't happen last week. Well, the ball got dropped, and we will be back on ZOOM on this Sunday, the 19th, and every Sunday thereafter until we can be in Fellowship together in the same space.

Faraja Keyes, our new Office and Communications Assistant, handles the video work, and edits the recordings, splicing them together in some semblance of order. She works closely with Billy Burke and Elenita Musgrove to make things happen. Billy sings and leads the Praise Band. Elenita is our star Cello soloist. John Tarpey provides drum on our Praise Music, and Mark Allebach blesses us with piano Preludes and Postludes. In her role as Director of Music for Palma Sola, Elenita will be scheduling the Manasota Trombone Cohort for a future worship service. Chris Felix is the latest addition to our team, handling sound and lighting.

Woody Johnson, Westminster's beloved organist and Director of Music, will be in town this week, recording several preludes, postludes, a horn selection, and a vocal solo by his lovely wife, Joyce.

Those will appear in future worship services starting in August.

When we do finally resume regular worship, Woody will be the Director of Music, and Elenita will still be a part of our music program.

The variety and quality of the musical selections our church musicians are offering is excellent. Our sound recording and "broadcasting" isn't as good as they are. Our equipment is not designed to do what we are doing. But we are working on that every week. I thought the July 12th service was the best sound yet.

I cannot begin to tell you how much work these dedicated folks put in to each week's worship service. There are hours of practice, hours of recording, hours of editing, hours of planning. I have the easy part. All I have to do is get in front of the camera and talk. Well, yes, I do put

together the order of service, and I do have to prepare a sermon. But I'm used to doing that. That's nothing I haven't done most weeks since Memorial Day weekend of 1969.

God has blessed us with wonderful cooperative talented people who are doing the best they can under circumstances that none of us in our wildest dreams could have imagined.

Thank you for watching our services. Thank you for your financial support that enables these dedicated folks to be a part of our worship and music team.

Your Transitional Pastor,

Ted Land