



August 5, 2020

Dear Friends,

Things are moving quickly at Christ Church! Post-lockdown at CCDP will have many changes including new staff, weekly online services, and a host of reopening protocols. Today I would like to focus on one of our new staff members.

Only a short while ago we heard the sad news that Matthew is leaving us, as of September 6th. Matthew's ministry among us has been outstanding and we will miss him terribly. But we must have music! So, with Matthew's help we have secured an interim (September to March) Music Director who is a talented musician and a delightful person. In her own words allow me to introduce you to Christina Labriola.

Hello, Christ Church Deer Park community! My name is Christina Labriola, and I'm thrilled to be joining you as Interim Music Director this September.

Music and faith, and the lively interplay between the two, are at the centre of my professional and personal life. My current practice combines music-making as a choral conductor, mezzo soprano/alto, and pianist/organist, with theological scholarship in music and Christian spirituality, beauty, and liturgy.

After completing studies in piano at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, I undertook a Masters degree in Sacred Music at Emmanuel College, with a focus on choral conducting. Following this, my recently completed doctoral work in theology at Regis College explored the sacramental potential of music in the Catholic Imagination. I have remained active in Toronto as a conductor, teacher, singer, accompanist, and lecturer in a variety of church, academy, and community settings.

Music ministry for me is a matter of vocation – a significant way in which I respond to the personal call of Jesus. It is a gift that I receive with reverence and give back to God and to the people of God with joy and gratitude. Through my years of involvement in sacred music, I have witnessed again and again with wonder the mysterious workings of grace through the beauty of music. I delight in the participation liturgical music offers us in the glorious song of praise offered to the Father, in the Spirit, by Christ, who is the New Song.

The wardens and I confirmed Christina's appointment this week. We all look forward to working with her over these next several months while the search is in progress for a permanent Director of Music.

Blessings,

Cheryl Q. Palmer