



December 6, 2017

SINGING IN THE SHADOW

It's one thing to sing in the shower. But how do you sing in the shadow? How do you sing in the midst of trouble and sadness?

The Magnificat is Mary's song of praise to God, and she sings it in the shadow of injustice and fear. Jesus was born into a challenging time, when for people like Mary and others in Galilee merely existing was full of hardship. But Mary sings a song of praise, a song of trust in God. The inspiration for her song comes from just one piece of good news: God is with her.

This Sunday, the Hills Church Chancel Choir and soloists will sing two settings of the Magnificat, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, and conducted by Director of Music John Finney. Mary's song of praise is a gift to us now, in this time and place.

When the shadows are dark, and we don't know what to say to one another, we can always join together in song. If we don't have the strength to sing just yet, we can listen.

Do you remember the story of the "Grinch Who Stole Christmas"? It was singing that transformed the Grinch's heart. On Christmas morning, after the Grinch had stolen all the gifts, the decorations, and even the food for Christmas dinner, the people of Whoville gathered in the town square to sing. In the shadow of betrayal and hunger, they still had

*songs to sing, and the singing changed the world. There's a bit of gospel
in that story.*

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister*