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April 12, 2023

CD701: Worship Arts and Disciplines

Worship Practicum Evaluation

It was a great pleasure working with Raymond, Julie, David, Myungjin, and Erica on the worship practicum. Each team member was kind, respectful, inquisitive, and very easy to work with. Everyone was very transparent and humble in communicating their personal strengths so that after we had listed an outline of the worship liturgy, we quickly filled in who would be doing what portions. Primarily, elements were broken down in to prayer, praise, sermon, and video editing. Various portions of our video included Communion as well as a call and response. To give equal time for everyone on the team to participate, those leading prayers easily volunteered towards leading these portions of the practicum. Personally, I was challenged in filming myself leading praise. Raymond handled our videography and asked us to send footage in specific manners. For the praise, he gave a brilliant suggestion to film myself singing the same songs in 3 different angles; my front profile, side profile, and guitar. Setting this up actually took quite some time and was a valuable lesson in learning how to film and record myself more efficiently going forward. My wife usually handles any technological/videography angles so this was a learning experience for me for sure. Through this process, Raymond was very clear in video requests and everyone was able to provide the videos in a timely fashion, which we all greatly appreciated.

As stated above, my personal role in the planning and execution was in coordinating the worship portion. It was easy for me as I lead worship at my church, so I was able to do all my

videos in one take. It was challenging in that I needed to learn “And when it was Evening”, which is originally sung by a choir. Changing the chords and lyrical style to a modern rendition that was easier to follow was a fun challenge. I acquired a broader appreciation for every type of worship song; naturally I would not have even considered “And when it was evening”. However, while practicing it, I realized the lyrics were very beautiful and I enjoyed singing them unto the Lord. Personally, in discussions with my team, I would also try to keep conversations on point while inclusively hearing all perspectives and ideas. Although I wasn’t able to make all the meetings, as our team met about four times, we had great dialogue on our active, shared google doc to plan and communicate our thoughts.

The practicum went very well, from beginning to end. There was great communication, teamwork, humility, and timeliness. Everyone was proud of the work they put in towards creating this unique fusion of ideas and elements unto the Lord. The Maundy Thursday service truly captured the essence of the night before Christ was crucified. The Communion and it’s profound meaning were well explained and expanded on, with active participation welcomed. Solemnness in participation was introduced while being open handed towards those who wanted to participate. Also, the foot washing portion of our worship highlighted the servanthood of sacrificial love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who in washing His own disciples’ feet that night, demonstrated the humble, pure, serving love that His followers were to bestow unto others. The sermon also, which delved deeper into the arrest of Jesus and what was being experienced, rounded out the entirety of the Thursday evening leading up to Good Friday. If given another opportunity, I think I would simply want to have the service done in person. It is powerful to see that we are able to do all that we did separately and I’m greatly appreciative of the technology to do such things. However, if time and circumstances were permitting, I would have wanted the

entirety of our service to be done live (outside of the videos demonstrating the foot-washing, as doing this unto our loved ones was a powerful, intimate moment to capture). Maundy Thursday captures the Eucharist, foot-washing, betrayal, and the arrest of our Lord. So much of this evening revolves around the way we are to treat one another, whether or not the love is reciprocated. I believe effectively leading this service in the same room instead of through separate, pre-recorded videos would have led to a more powerful worship practicum for those participating and for those in the service.

Being able to participate in this practicum was a powerful experience that broadened my perspective towards other liturgical experiences in song, dance, style, and flow. This worship practicum was the first Maundy Thursday service that I had personally experienced and I am now very open to attending one in the future.