

A Note of Transition from John Sparkman

October 2023

This month, the music ministries at Holy Spirit will begin a period of transition. For a number of years, I have been considering relocation to be closer to my parents as they age. I am an only child with parents now in their 80's and this, combined with the ever-growing, exorbitant cost of living in the Seattle area, it has increasingly become clear that my partner Brent and I would need to eventually move.

Accordingly this summer, an opportunity that has felt quite Spirit-led has opened to me, and my final Sunday at Holy Spirit will be Reformation Sunday, October 29th. For the past 13 years, it has been my profound joy to contribute to and to guide the music and worship life of HSLC's gifted, generous, and faith-filled community. It's been an honor to seek to proclaim and embody the all-encompassing love of Christ with you all. We've created many meaningful and profound worship services and music events together, we've played way more notes together than any mathematician could ever calculate, and along the way we've made many valuable memories and relationships that I hope will continue, albeit in a new way, as we make this transition together.

In November, I will begin serving St. Philip Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This transition will put me less than 2 hours driving to both parents in NC, rather than a full day or an overnight on an airplane (or two). This will enable me to no longer be absent as things change and develop over the coming years, while continuing in the vocation to which God continues to call me. I'll also be able to go to a proper family Christmas celebration on the actual holiday, something I've not done since leaving North Carolina in 2002.

You may not be aware, but the Holy Spirit community has helped me to both grow professionally and to heal in innumerable profound ways personally, too. I am forever thankful for how much you have collectively helped my development into a better person over my time with you all, and my deep love and appreciation for this community will continue even at my new distance.

I appreciate your prayers during this time of change and opportunity and look so forward to seeing the exciting new chapter God is planning for the music ministries of Holy Spirit.

In love,
Jds