



December 20, 2020

Christmas Carols....a subversive form of evangelism!

Beginning on that very first Christmas, music and singing have been an important aspect of the holiday celebration. What started with a choir of angels has become generations of carols, symphonies, cantatas, concerts, hymns, and oratorios. We love to sing at Christmas time. This singing, however, is not about entertainment. When we sing a Christmas, we are following in the tradition of the Herald Angels who had a message that they needed to get out to the world. We sing to tell a story; to tell THE story. In fact, like most things at Christmas time, there is a song that even talks about that.

The night wind said to the little lamb, do you see what I see. A star way up in the sky with a tail as long as a kite. Then the little lamb found a shepherd boy, and said, do you hear what I hear. A song high above the trees with a voice as big as the sea. The shepherd boy said to the mighty king, do you know what I know, a child shivers in the Cold let us bring him silver and Gold. Said the king to people everywhere, listen to what I say, pray for peace, everywhere, the child is sleeping in the night and he will bring us goodness and light.



What started as a whisper in the wind, moved to the lamb, who told the boy, who then informed the king, who shared the news with people everywhere. Christmas carols are thusly a subversive form of evangelism. When we sing we are saying to the world; I want you to see what I see, to hear that I hear, to know what I know. A child is born and he will bring goodness and light. I know that we cant sing the way the we have in previous years, but I want to encourage you towards creativity when it comes to lending our voices this Christmas season. Someone out there in the virtual word still needs to hear "a song high above the trees with a voice as big as the sea."

- Rev. Cean James

PSEC Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development

PSEC Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative

As we prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew, the PSEC Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative (ZWRJI) task force, named for the man who was brutally lynched on August 13, 1911 in Coatesville, Pa., is committed to expand consciousness and conversations around racial justice issues with the hope of nurturing anti-racism efforts in our congregations and communities. The ZWRJI task force invites congregations and individuals to a deeper awakening of the impact systemic racism and white supremacy have on white American Christian faith and culture.

For more information on this important racial justice issue please visit the PSEC website's Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative page at: <https://psec.org/zachariah-walker/>

There you will also find information regarding the PSEC Anti-Racism Statement that you and your congregation can sign. This statement will be released to Media on Jan. 15, 2021, the start of the weekend of MLK day.



The PSEC will close books for 2020

as of the close of business on

January 18, 2021. All OCWM

contributions and pass-throughs for

2020 must be received by our office by the close of business on Monday, January 18, 2021 in order to be counted as a 2020 contribution.

