

Devotion, Week of October 6, 2024
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Well, most of you just flat out missed the most inspiring concert I've heard in some time – and believe me, I go to inspiring concerts – the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Spivey Hall, and the UGA orchestra and choral concerts. Sunday night First Baptist Church in Morrow was rockin' with wonderful hymns. Xavier sang a solo and conducted, the choirs of First Baptist, Philadelphia Pres, and Morrow UMC, along with the Masterworks Chorus from Spivey, filled the choir loft with incredible voices.

The congregation got to sing 6 of the hymns, and I loved the fact that I knew the words to all the first verses of them (and some other verses at times as well) – Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Be Thou My Vision, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, and the closing hymn, a real toe tapper – When We All Get to Heaven.

I met Dr. Sean Vogt, the new Director of Choral Activities at Clayton State, who promises to bring a joyful conducting style to choirs there. Rev. Devita Parnell and I both spoke – both with different emphases, and somehow we complemented each other, I think. I had to confess that I was Baptist till I was 16 and had been thoroughly and completely baptized, so I made some new Baptist friends! Plus, of all things, a woman came up to me later and told me she was from Hickory, NC also. A very small world.

As I said in my remarks, hymns remind us of our theology, help us celebrate special days in the church calendar, and bring us together as one to worship with song. So help me sing joyfully in the coming weeks as we prepare to celebrate Reformation/Kirkin' of the Tartans, and as Thanksgiving and Advent approach. They make our lives so much richer in worship!

Jeanne