



REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

May 13, 2020

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19.

The Social Service Agencies
and Synods of Region 1.

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How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

Considering the nature of COVID-19 transmission the question of singing may be one we have to take literally. Apparently, it was in Babylon too. Surely, though, the voices and harps of captivity are primarily metaphorical.

- What does public health and well-being require?
- What do we need to hear and do to feed our souls?
- How do we adapt to an environment we neither want nor understand?
- Who will play? Who will dance? Who will compose?
- **Who will lead?**

Music may be vital for people of faith - but so is communion. So is proclamation, and service, and justice and joy . . .

"To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues." (1 Cor. 12)

What are the cadences of the song we now sing? What are the harmonies and the major motifs? This is today's question.



A New Song

Psalm 137:1-4 **By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.**

²On the willows there we hung up our harps.

³For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,

"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

 eizing your harp, finding the strings.

HARMONY – from the Greek “harmos,” - joining.

CADENCE – from the Latin “cadere” - to fall.

Many strings – one sound.
How will we blend in with one another?

Who Leads?
Staff? Councils?
Lay Leaders?
Congregations?

Today “cadence” refers more to “prosody” than decline – rhythms & versification.
Who, though, will lead us through all the strange syncopations of COVID-19?

How?
Staff, Councils,
Boards,
Consultations,
Committees,
Designated Task
Forces?

Motif, an idea that brings us home, again and again.
Why do we sing?
What is our song?

MOTIF – from the French “motive” – a reoccurring theme or idea.

Why?
We are called.
Mission must always come first!

Selah (/ˈsi:lə(h)/; Hebrew: שֶׁלַח) is a word used 74 times in the Hebrew Bible. The meaning of the word is not known . . . but It is probably either **a liturgico-musical mark** or an instruction on the reading of the text, something like "**stop and listen.**" ([Wikipedia](#))

The Prophet's Prayer

²O LORD, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O LORD, of your work.
In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.
³God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.

Selah – Stop and Listen now! Breathe!
Prepared your heart for truth.

God's glory covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise.
⁴The brightness was like the sun;
rays came forth from his hand,
where his power lay hidden.

Habakkuk 3:2-4

Why?

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Mission must always
come first!



A
Persistent
Motif

Psalm 137:6 **Let my tongue cling to the roof or my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!**

