



## ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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**Monday, June 1, 2020 • Volume VI:33**

### GREETINGS, ST PAUL'S CHORISTERS!

It is always a joy and a pleasure to spend time with all of you! We want to hear from you! Send a picture, a video, a poem you've written, a story—you can text or email ([mtrautman@stpaulsenglewood.org](mailto:mtrautman@stpaulsenglewood.org); (732.213.2155) **Be sure to join us Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.**



### THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in “tongues of fire” and marks the foundation of the Christian church. It celebrates God’s love that binds us together in Christian fellowship and reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit working in us to continue Christ’s redemption through us. These reasons make Pentecost one of the great Baptismal feasts of the Church Year. Yesterday, Michael Robinson sang “How Long” and a song in Spanish—a great reminder that we are a faith of many languages.

The picture here *Jesus Mafa* is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. The exuberant expression of joy in this depiction represents the story of Pentecost, including Mary and the women mentioned in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

### ‘LEAN ON ME’

We had a wonderful session on Wednesday with Ms. Gail Blache-Gill—and it was great to sing just a little—even if it was not quite together! We sang together Bill Withers’ song *Lean on Me*.

Bill Withers grew up in Slab Fork, West Virginia, a rural coal mining town. He wrote *Lean on Me* after he had moved to Los Angeles to a rough part of town and began to miss the strong community and people he grew up with. He said of the song, “I bought a little piano and I was sitting there just running my fingers up and down the piano. In the course of doing the music, that phrase crossed my mind, so then you go back and say, ‘OK, I like the way that phrase, *Lean on Me*, sounds with this song.’” According to Wikipedia: “Withers’ version is noted for its bridge section: (“Just call on me, brother”), as well as the coda section, where the words “call me” are repeated a total of 14 times, before the song ends on a cadenza on the strings. Several radio stations, as well as the single version, fade out during the repeated coda, due to time limits as well as the repetition of the lyrics. Some radio versions cut the number of “call me’s” to six times before the song’s end.

I know we are all missing a lot. What can you do to create some music that will comfort you in this difficult time? Think about what you’re missing and see if you can make it into some music. *And record it!*



## JESSICA JACKSON WITH US!

Ms. Jessica Jackson will be with us this Wednesday! She has been a wonderful supporter of our choristers and is beloved by all of us. She will share her thoughts on what's been going on and I know she will want to catch up with all of you. Be sure to Zoom in this Wednesday at 4:30!



## BLAST FROM SUMMERS PAST



## ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL ON INSTAGRAM

In addition to our website and Facebook account, we now have an Instagram account! Check out the videos and pictures: <https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsings4nj/> —there will be more to come. Follow us on Facebook and at our website, [www.stpauls-choirschool.org](http://www.stpauls-choirschool.org)

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

## A CHORISTER'S PRAYER IN QUARANTINE

Bless, O Lord, us thy singers,  
who once sang within Thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing in our homes,  
may yet be heard in the world,  
And what is heard in the world, may lead all closer to Thee,  
Until we're choirs again. AMEN.  
*(Thanks to Dr. Anne Matlack for this prayer)*

*The image Jesus Mafa is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution  
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*The article on Lean on Me can be found here:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lean\\_on\\_Me\\_\(song\)#In\\_popular\\_culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lean_on_Me_(song)#In_popular_culture)