

WORSHIP LEADING CHOIR: PARTICIPATIVE, PRIESTLY AND PASTORAL

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Worship Leading Choir

- ▣ First, a quick survey
- ▣ The current situation

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ History
- ▣ Old Testament – after crossing the Red Sea
 - Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord... (Exodus 15:1, RSV)
 - Then Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dancing. (Exodus 15:20, RSV)

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Old Testament – David and the ark
 - [David] appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, to extol, thank, and praise the Lord, the God of Israel: Asaph was the chief, They were to play the lyres and harps, Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow the trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God. That day David first appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the Lord in this manner: Then all the people said “Amen” and “Praise the Lord.” (1 Chronicles 16:4-7, 36, NIV)

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Old Testament – David's instructions for the temple
 - ...four thousand are to praise the Lord with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose. (1 Chronicles 23:5)
 - 288 Levites commissioned as music leaders. (1 Chronicles 25:7)

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Old Testament – Solomon and the temple
 - Now when the priests came out of the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to their divisions; and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jedu'thun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with a hundred and twenty priests who were trumpeters; and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the Lord, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever,” the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. (2 Chronicles 5:11-14, RSV)

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Old Testament – Exile
 - The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight. (Ezra 2:41, RSV)
 - I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. (Nehemiah 12:31, NIV)

A Priestly Choir

▣ Early Church

- No evidence of organized choirs in earliest days of Christianity
- Eusebius wrote in the third century: “there was a place appointed for those who sang psalms, youths and virgins, old men and young.”
- Council of Laodicea (AD 363) Canon 15: “No others shall sing in the Church, save only the canonical singers, who go up into the ambo and sing from a book.”

A Priestly Choir

▣ Middle Ages

- *Scholar cantorum*: a professional ecclesiastical music training school, started by Pope Sylvester (314-335) or Pope Hilarius (461-468), made famous in Pope Gregory the Great's reign (540-604)
- Influenced by elements of imperial ceremony such as incense, candles, insignia and vesture (Lawrence J. Johnson, *The Ministers of Music*)
- Private chapels with own orchestras and choirs
- What about parish churches?

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Modern Days
 - Choir with “special music” – a “largely Anglo concept, imported into parish churches from the English cathedral tradition” (C. Michael Hawn, Lawrence J. Johnson, “What has happened to the church choir?”)

A Priestly Choir

- ▣ Service
 - To minister (Num 18:5)
 - To offer sacrifice (Lev 4:20, 26, 31)
 - To bless His name (Deut 10:8-9)
- ▣ Teaching
 - Deut 24:8; 2 Chron 35:3; Neh 8:7
- ▣ Prayer and guidance
 - Lev 9:22-24; Num 6:22-27; Exo 28:30

A Pastoral Choir

- ▣ To act like a shepherd
- ▣ To shepherd the flock
- ▣ To lead, guide, comfort, and provide for the flock
- ▣ Psalm 23
- ▣ Rod and staff
 - Comfort (emotional and scriptural)
 - Protection and discipline (doctrinal)

A Pastoral Choir

- ▣ Musically trained
- ▣ Students of the Word
- ▣ Dedicated Christians
- ▣ Maintains a vital personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ▣ Serve others
- ▣ Relational

A Pastoral Choir

- ▣ To lead
 - Worship leading
 - Skills and competence (in music, liturgy, theology, etc.)
- ▣ To serve
 - Servant-leader
 - People orientation
- ▣ To care for
 - Jesus the Good Shepherd
 - Love of people

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Primarily a worship leader
 - Servant of the text
 - ▣ Scripture
 - ▣ Theme
 - ▣ Christian year
 - ▣ Lectionary readings

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Primarily a worship leader
 - Narrative of worship
 - ▣ A facilitator
 - ▣ Liturgy
 - ▣ Four-fold, three-fold, two-fold

A Participative Choir

- ▣ How to

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Prelude
- ▣ Welcome and Announcements
- ▣ Hymn
- ▣ Invocation
- ▣ Old Testament Lesson
- ▣ Epistle Lesson
- ▣ Hymn
- ▣ Gospel Lesson
- ▣ Sermon
- ▣ Prayer
- ▣ Offering
- ▣ Song
- ▣ Benediction
- ▣ Postlude

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Gathering Music
- ▣ Welcome and Announcements
- ▣ Call to Worship
- ▣ Opening Songs
- ▣ Confession
- ▣ Assurance of Pardon
- ▣ Response
- ▣ Greeting
- ▣ Scripture Reading
- ▣ Children's Message
- ▣ Offering
- ▣ Choir Anthem
- ▣ Doxology
- ▣ Sermon
- ▣ Prayer for the People
- ▣ Hymn
- ▣ Invitation to the Table
- ▣ Word of Institution
- ▣ Prayer of Thanksgiving
- ▣ Bread and Cup
- ▣ Prayer
- ▣ Closing Response
- ▣ Benediction
- ▣ Postlude

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Prelude
- ▣ Welcome and Announcements
- ▣ Silence
- ▣ Call to Worship
 - Psalms
 - Songs
- ▣ Confession
 - Scripture
 - Prayer
- ▣ Offering
- ▣ Word
 - ▣ Scripture Reading
 - ▣ Song
 - ▣ Sermon
 - ▣ Response
- ▣ Peace
- ▣ Benediction
- ▣ Postlude

A Participative Choir

- ▣ Song Set
- ▣ Welcome and Announcements
- ▣ Offering
- ▣ Sermon
- ▣ Song