

# The Valley is alive with the sound of our music!

By Andrew McAnerney

The Cathedral's new musical outreach program — sharing our music with churches across the diocese — began December 13th with a visit to the Parish of the Valley.

The Parish of the Valley comprises 12 congregations and 15 buildings in the northern end of the Diocese of Ottawa (think Barry's Bay, Petawawa, Eganville and Beachburg, among the many). Our intrepid musicians could not, of course, cover that much ground, limiting their visit to St Paul's Church, Cobden in the morning and Holy Trinity Church, Pembroke in the afternoon.



At St. Paul's, our director of music Andrew McAnerney sang tenor cantor and assistant organist Nicholas Walters played for Holy Communion. Bishop Michael Bird celebrated the service with extra music including the Advent prose, a new setting of the Magnificat written for the recent O antiphons service at Christ Church, and O come, O come Emmanuel.

In the afternoon, 30 kilometres up the Trans Canada, Andrew and Nicholas were joined by Justin Sidaros from the boy's choir for a service of lessons and carols at Holy Trinity. Music during the carols service included Andrew singing Gabriel's Message, Justin singing Silent Night and Away in a Manger, and an assortment of Advent music from Nicholas on the fine Casavant Organ.

"This was my first trip to the Parish of the Valley and I was very touched by the warm welcome I received," Andrew said. "It is such a privilege to make and share music, particularly in these pandemic times."

Social distancing rules allowed only one person to sing at a time, and of course the congregation couldn't sing at all — but the music brought pleasure both to the congregations and the musicians.

"I think everybody...enjoyed themselves. Although COVID prevents socializing, it was good to see so many people. I look forward to a time when I can return with the full choir," Andrew said, thanking Reverend Matthew Brown for organizing the visit and to all the volunteers, musicians and congregations of St Paul's and Holy Trinity for their welcome.

The carol service was video recorded and will be re-broadcast on the Parish of the Valley YouTube channel and YourTV Ottawa Valley over the Christmas holidays.

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