

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Epiphany Lutheran Church Offers Special Lenten Worship Series**  
**“Music, Song and Silence: Drawing Closer to God”**

**Collierville, Tennessee, USA** – Epiphany Lutheran Church is offering a very special Lenten worship series: “Music, Song and Silence: Drawing Closer to God.” This service will be held every Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm, beginning March 8, 2017 and ending April 5, 2017.

The service incorporates a mix of Taizé songs and time for silent reflection with special music performed on unique instruments including the viola da gamba and the Lirone by guest musician Joshua Keller. The viola da gamba was developed in Italy around the first part of the 16th century, slightly before the violin became a part of academic musical culture. The Lirone is an instrument that held a brief role in music from around 1540-1640, mainly in Italy. It was used almost solely as an instrument to accompany vocal music, solo singers, early operas, and poetry recitations.

Keller says, “It has been a pleasure to design unique musical pairings for Epiphany Lutheran Church. Through talks with Pastor Monica Weber and Music Director Jason Bell, we've been able to plan music that explores meditative states across time periods and cultures. With the use of untraditional instruments and guest singers, we will offer contemplative music starting from the early Baroque and traveling into the 20th century and today.”

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Some of the musical selections for the Lenten worship series include *O Jesu, Nomen Dulce*; *Herr Jesu Christ, du höchstes Gut*; *Prayer from Jewish Life* by Ernest Bloch; and *Komm, süßes Kreuz* from the St. Matthew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Jason Bell, Music Director and Artist in Residence at Epiphany Lutheran Church, says “We are so fortunate to have Joshua with us for our Lenten Worship series during this year of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He is a uniquely talented musician; offering music from the time of the Reformation on instruments played at that time will add a special dimension to these services.”

**About Epiphany Lutheran Church:** Epiphany Lutheran Church worships every Sunday at 10:00 am in the Agape Chapel, 1880 Wolf River Blvd., in Collierville, TN. Epiphany’s Community Garden, tended by volunteers, provides over 1,400 pounds of produce annually to the Collierville Food Pantry and the Page Robbins Adult Day Center. For more information, contact Pastor Monica Weber, (901) 861-6227, or visit [www.epiphanylu.org](http://www.epiphanylu.org).

**About Joshua Keller:** Joshua Keller, a native of Tennessee, has performed as soloist and chamber musician all over Europe and in notable festivals. Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, he has studied viola da gamba and cello performance at the Hochschule für Kunste, Bremen, Germany; Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; and the University of Memphis.

**Photo Information:**

**Photo 1:** Joshua Keller, Guest Musician

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