

Song Dedications

1. To All Who Listen – To Kim (Bolic) Pramm and Christine Tourso

Kim and Chris were members of St Matthew-Trinity Church in Hoboken, NJ. There was a song I had previously written (Song of Praise – see #10) that I used to sing at church from time to time. As my already lousy singing voice began to get worse, I asked people who were more vocally gifted to sing the song. One day, Kim and Chris said to me that they liked hearing the song, but especially liked when I sang it. I never had anyone be so nice and so wrong in the same sentence. So, I dedicated the next song I wrote, “To All Who Listen”, to them. When Kim found out about it, she drove from her hometown in North Carolina to Hoboken earlier than expected to hear it when it was first performed.

2. Prayer and Patience – To Maud Hansen

Maud was a member of the choir at St Matthew Trinity. She was a truly amazing lady. She lost both parents and had to care for her two younger brothers before she was 20 years old. Maud also worked tirelessly at the parish coffee house and the Lutheran thrift store. I never saw this lady without her incredible smile. Her faith and her witness – and the way she lived her life for Christ – were indeed an inspiration.

3. We Ought To Dream – In Honor of the Ministry of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

This was first performed on the Sunday prior to Martin Luther King Day. May his dream always be ours. There is indeed “no better way than together”.

4. Mary’s Lullaby – to my daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

Well – I had written songs to other people – I had to write one for my firstborn. It didn’t take Mary long to find out I couldn’t sing – she used to cry when I started to sing it to her.

5. Show Us The Way – to Eusun Kim, pastor of Boonton United Methodist Church

This song was written to be performed on the Sunday Eusun graduated from Drew University. Eusun is a pastor in every sense of the word. He is there for all of us in every way. For me, it’s great to have a pastor I could talk to about anything. I also consider him a true friend,

6. Come and Reign – to Susan Lovell (the soloist on most of the CD “To All Who Listen”)

What an incredible talent. Susan’s family is from Kentucky – so she usually went home for Easter. One year, her family decided to come to New Jersey instead – and I was thrilled she would be singing with the choir on Easter – so I decided to write the Easter song and dedicate it to her.

7. The Best of You – to Janet Saulter-Hemmer

Janet is the head of the Sunday School at Boonton United Methodist Church. Janet decided to donate a kidney to another church member. She asked me to write a special song for the Sunday before the procedure. I must admit – when she first made the request – I thought – hmmm – a song about a kidney – what would Marvin Hamlisch do, Rather than write a song about anatomy, I wrote a song about “giving”. It turned out to be very appropriate – because when it comes to giving, Janet gives a great deal of herself to everyone.

8. The Truth Has Made Me Free – to Ellwood Einarsen

“Woody” was like an assistant pastor at St Matthew Trinity, as he did whatever was needed at the church. Sadly, Woody passed away very suddenly. This song was performed on All Saints Sunday – and Woody is indeed a saint. I feel it is no accident that his birthday was November 1 (All Saints Day).

9. Be Strong and Confident – to Carol Ferrone (in memory of her mother, Wilma Ferrone)

Carol is the director of the Xavier Company, a group of professional actors who preach the gospel through music, dance and drama. Carol’s tireless efforts allows our audiences to “see” the gospel, and people are spiritually uplifted in a unique and moving way. She also runs a healing mass ministry at St Francis-Xavier Church in New York City. I am lucky enough to be her music director for the past 26 years

10. Song of Praise – one of my first – and one of my favorites

The choir at St Matthew Trinity had never missed singing an anthem on Sunday morning, but that streak was threatened by a predicted snowstorm. I thought about what music I would do if the choir couldn’t make it through the storm. I thought “a simple song of praise” was the answer. I wrote it during a NY Knicks basketball game.

The faithful choir was there despite the storm, so we sang what we originally had planned.

11. The One and Only Hope – no dedication – this one belongs to Jesus

1995 was the toughest year of my life. I was out of work – and no matter what I did – I could not get another job – even after 25 interviews. God had me in His hand all the way. One day, I took my then 2-year-old son to the playground on a day I would usually be working. My son was having trouble getting up the ladder of a slide. He was very frightened – so I stood behind him and said, “Don’t worry, my son – I’m right behind you”. At that very moment, an incredible feeling of peace came over me. God was telling me the exact same thing – “Don’t worry, my son – I’m right behind you”. I wound up going back to computer school, and I’ve had an enjoyable successful career as a programmer. How fortunate I am that no matter how stupid and stubborn I get – God won’t let go of me.

12. He Leads Me – to Pastor Paul Hagedorn

This song was written for his installation as pastor at St Matthew-Trinity Church. He has a marvelous speaking voice but couldn’t sing very well (something he willingly joked about). The congregation was in very good hands with him as their pastor.

13. My Time Is His Hands – to Dr Joel Nederhood, host of the Faith 20 television program

Dr Nederhood helped me through a very tough time – by constantly reinforcing that we should always trust God – no matter the situation. God is indeed much bigger than any problems – and is always with us and will never fail us.

14. Mary and the Angel – to Elizabeth Helstoski

Betty helped in many ministries at Boonton United Methodist Church. Her son, Henry, sang tenor in the choir. This was written as a duet for Henry and the soloist for much of the “To All Who Listen” CD, Susan Lovell. I always looked forward to seeing Betty at church.

15. Magnificat – to Helen Marezky

Helen was a soloist and a member of the altar guild for many years at St Matthew Trinity Church in Hoboken, NJ. She also sang in the choir at St Paul of the Cross church in Jersey City. She was always willing to help in any way that she could.

16. Rest In His Glory – To Ida Piombino

I often tell people I grew up in the movie “Moonstruck”, (a large extended family who shared a house). Ida (who we called Aunt Eva) was my godmother – and was very much like a second mom. She shared an apartment with my Aunt Louise, My Uncle Joe and his wife lived on the top floor, with Uncle Mike and Aunt Grace 2 blocks away. The rest of the family was within 10 miles. It was great.

17. Do Not Be Afraid To Love Me – to Brad Chiapetta and Maria DeFazio

Two very talented singers who are now happily married and have a beautiful daughter.

18. When's It's Time – In memory of Helen Johns, former teacher at St Mary High School,

19. Story of Salvation – To Grace LeBar, head of St Matthew -Trinity day care center

20. King of Kings – to Myoung Lin, former choir member

21. Father Mike's Song – to Very Rev. Michael J Kreder, VF, KHS

Pastor of the Church of Saint Mary, 1998 – present

22. God, We Consecrate Ourselves to You – Thank you to Joyce Meyer

The title of this song was taken from “The Enjoying Everyday Life Bible” and used with permission. I try to watch Joyce on TV every day. Her sharing of God's word and her insights strengthen me.

23. You Will Always Be There With Me – to Fred and Ellen Dammers

Fred helped a great deal by recording many of the songs presented on this website. Fred and Ellen have led many areas of ministry for Rutherford Congregational Church. Both are also fine musicians. Their daughter, Alycia, wanted to sing a special song for their wedding vow renewal ceremony on their 35th anniversary. I decided to write this one and Alycia did a super job performing it.

24. One Nation Under God – to Caroline Kosakowski, Victoria Garcia and Julia Decker

Caroline, Victoria and Julia formed a youth choir trio at Rutherford Congregational Church. They were talented singers, and very nice young ladies. Due to the views of separation of church and state by the United Church of Christ, I had to change my original words and it became partly a celebration song for the church's 100th anniversary celebration, with Caroline singing the lead. I wanted to show the original lyrics, so I asked my wife, Lorraine, to record the song a second time.

25. Psalm 100 – in memory of Daniel Moran

Dan is the husband of Debbie Moran, the parish administrator at the Church of Saint Mary in Rutherford, NJ. Debbie is an unsung hero, someone who does all the hard work necessary to make things work. We lost Dan to cancer at a very young age. This adaption of Psalm 100 was written for Dan's funeral mass.

TRACKS TO BE ADDED LATER – sheet music only available

26. Christmas Wishes – to Marian Lizzio



Marian was the unofficial production manager of the Xavier Company. She did all the background work that was needed for our Christian Theater Company presentations to succeed. She was also an incredible dancer and actress. She dedicated her career to working with pre-school children and school age children with disabilities. Marian lived a few blocks from the World Trade Center. She died of a related illness at a very young age.

27. Forever With Angels – to Rev. Charles Hartling

Parochial vicar of the Church of Saint Mary, Rutherford, NJ

Father Chuck had an amazing singing voice and was an excellent homilist. He also directed the drama club at St Mary High School, and an avid NY Rangers fan. I had the pleasure of enjoying ministry, music and hockey with Father Chuck. This was written for his funeral mass, and we sing it at the Saint Mary parish Mass of Remembrance every year.