

Christ Presbyterian Church established its home in downtown Madison in 1851 and has supported a choir since its inception. Over the years, Christ Church church has acquired a reputation for excellence in worship music. A nationally-known choral conducting program at the University of Wisconsin during the tenure of Robert Fountain (1970s and 1980s) attracted talented young choral conductors, a number of whom found their way into music staff positions at Christ Church. With the support of organist John Rafoth, the Chancel Choir leads Sunday worship each week and on all the major holidays of the church year.

The Chancel Choir is made up of volunteers and the staff section leaders representing all ages and many levels of experience. Outside of the church, members of the choir sing in many Madison choral ensembles, including The Madison Choral Project, the Madison Chamber Choir, Philharmonic Chorus, Madison Opera Chorus and Symphony Chorus, and the Isthmus Vocal ensemble. Choral anthems and solo selections of significance - ranging from music of the Renaissance to the present time - are mainstays of the music tradition at Christ Church. Instrumental soloists and ensembles such as The Kat Trio and the Isthmus Brass are often featured along with the choir.

The Chancel Choir undertakes several large choral works each year, musical commissions, recordings and collaborative worship services with our sister Presbyterian churches in Madison. Important choral works presented over the years include Handel's Messiah and other oratorios, Schubert's Mass in G, the Christmas Oratorio of Camille Saint-Saëns, Vivaldi's Gloria and Magnificat; excerpts from Bach's St. John Passion, and Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies.

