

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Songwriter Brings Songs of Faith to Brady

(Lockhart) Celebrated Texas songwriter Fletcher Clark brings his songs of faith to Brady, Texas, 4:00pm Sunday, November 20, 2016, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1111 S. Blackburn St.

Fletcher was asked by The Rev. Shanna Neff to present his Musical Ministry. Continuing the church's history of sharing the fine acoustics of its historical Sanctuary with the community, the public is invited. There is a suggested donation of \$15, but all are welcome.

Since coming to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Lockhart in 2008, Fletcher began regularly playing with their 'Original Sinners' folk ensemble for Sunday service. Fr. Tom Bruns credits the growth in his congregation at Emmanuel to the inspirational appeal of the music. Fletcher tells it this way: "Fr. Tom told me in his gentle yet firm voice that music was my ministry - a viewpoint I had never considered. I had written some faith-based songs, but as I began using my gifts to write songs for our services, I found myself more in the role of scribe than author. The result was my Personal Hymnal *Open Up the Doors* published online. My ministry has brought me a whole new career, carrying this music to gatherings and venues where folks are really listening to the words and melodies."

"Fletcher Clark brings his far-ranging musical experience to the genre of hymnwriting - these songs are fresh takes on the shared, familiar vocabulary of the Christian spiritual tradition," said The Very Reverend Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, President of Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest. Fletcher's friend Chuck Parsons (author/historian) remarked, "Fletcher has truly been inspired by a living and loving God to compose this hymnal collection."

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Fletcher Clark at St. Paul's Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, November 20, 2016

A long-time fixture in the music scene, native Texan A. Fletcher Clark III came to Austin in 1972, leaving his first career as a Boston banker behind and becoming business manager for the legendary concert hall, Armadillo World Headquarters. There he founded the celebrated show band Balcones Fault, presenting scores of sold-out shows, and touring nationally behind their West Coast-released album. He ran the recording studio and Armadillo Records, with a career discography as engineer or producer for Phil Woods Quartet, Steven Fromholz, Kenneth Threadgill, Uncle Walt's Band, and others. He taught audio production at Austin Community College for ten years, and continues to produce and engineer for select clients. He has a continuing history with the Kerrville Folk Festival from his earliest performances in the '70's.

Fletcher was sideman for many of Texas' best songwriters before finding his own voice as a singer-songwriter, producing the collection **TAKING TURNS** on Armadillo Records, using twelve different artists and fifty of Austin's best players to record twelve of his tunes. For six years, he has produced and hosted the acclaimed monthly series **Evenings with the Songwriter** at the historic Dr. Eugene Clark Library in Lockhart.

A singer-songwriter who continues to play select festivals, house concerts and listening venues, Fletcher has expanded his Musical Ministry with the release of the CD **Open Up the Doors** on his label Flécha3 Music, featuring twelve original songs from his Personal Hymnal. He has already appeared for congregations and groups in Luling, Spring, Marble Falls, Port Aransas, Cuero, and at the Kerrville Folk Festival, with future appearances planned for Gonzales, San Marcos, New Braunfels, Kerrville, and many other Texas communities.

"This will be the third time I have appeared in Brady," said Fletcher. "The first two occasions were with my colleague Donaly Brice, when we presented our programs of Texas history to the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas." The pair has also visited dozens of other communities, bringing their programs to various chapters and groups.

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