



2023-2024
evensong
at IPC • 4 p.m.

SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

OCTOBER 8, 2023
4 P.M.

THE REV. SUSAN A. CLAYTON, *OFFICIANT*
DR. JEFF McLELLAND, *CHOIRMASTER*
DANIEL SZASZ, *VIOLIN*
NICHOLAS MATHES, *CANTOR*

THE IPC CHOIR



THE REV. KEVIN J. LONG, *PASTOR*
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



OPENING VOLUNTARY – Invocation, Op. 55Amy Beach
(1867-1944)

PROCESSION

The people stand.

PHOS HILARON - "O gladsome light"David Ashley White

O gladsome light, stark, shining from the creator's face, (b. 1944)
O God, who comes to us in flesh both blessing and blessed.
Now, as the sun is setting, and we raise the lights of prayer,
we sing unbounded joy to you,
Triune God who creates, redeems, restores,
Single God, who lives as Father, Son, and Spirit.
You are all that is worthy to be praised by these our happy voices.
O God with us, who gave us life, and gives your life for ours.
And to be known as God and source, bliss and joy,
throughout whatever worlds may be.

Alleluia!

Phos hilaron (Greek, 3rd century)

paraphrased and translated by The Reverend Joseph D. Robinson

PRECES Joel Martinson

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips: (b. 1960)

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us:

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Cantor Praise ye the Lord:

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

The people sit.

PSALM 96-98 – "Cantate Domino"

Psalm 96:1-6, 11-13

chant by George M. Garrett (1834-1897)

Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 97

Chant Tone V.1

The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy Name.

Psalm 98

chant by Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sounds of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE FIRST READING – Psalm 19:1-14

MAGNIFICAT (*Plainsong with faburdens*).....June Nixon

The people stand for the GLORIA.

(b. 1942)

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

The people sit.

THE SECOND READING – Philippians 3:4b-14

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Plainsong with faburdens*).....June Nixon

The people stand for the GLORIA and THE APOSTLE'S CREED.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Sung by All, monotone

Cantor

I BELIEVE in God

All

the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: the holy Catholic Church: The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the Body: and the Life everlasting. Amen.

The people sit.

THE PRAYERS Joel Martinson

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Cantor Our Father,

The congregation chants on the starting pitch throughout.

All who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Cantor O Lord, show thy mercy upon us:

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the State:

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy ministers with righteousness:

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people,

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord:

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us:

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECTS

Eternal God, in your perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and there is no strength but the strength of love. So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as your children. To you be dominion and glory, now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in you is calmness, peace and concord. Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another and bring us back to a unity of love, bearing some likeness to your divine nature. Through the embrace of love and the bonds of godly affection, make us one in the Spirit. By your peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy and tenderness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and ever-living God, Ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this congregation. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANTHEM – "Locus iste" Ernő Dohnányi
(1877-1960)

Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est. Deus, eui astat Angelorum chorus, exaudi preces servorum tuorum. Alleluja! Adorabo ad templum sanctum tuum: et confitebor nomini tuo. Alleluja!

This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach. God, with your choir of angels, listen to the prayer of your servants. Alleluia! I bow low toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name. Alleluia!

*Gradual of the Mass for the Dedication or Anniversary of a Church
drawing from Genesis 28:17, Exodus 3:5, and Psalm 137:2*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The people stand.

HYMN 836 – "Abide with me"EVENTIDE

Those who wish to stay may be seated after the recession.

CLOSING VOLUNTARIES

Meditation from "Thais"Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)

Ballade.....Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

Jeff McLelland, *Organ*
Daniel Szasz, *Violin*

About the Musician

DANIEL SZASZ, "a sensitive, caring player who sublimates his virtuosity to better serve the music."
(*The Birmingham News*)

Active as a concert soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Daniel Szasz has been the concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1997. A versatile musician, interested in performing both standard and less familiar repertoire, Mr. Szasz has been consistently praised for his "expressive, rich and warm sound" as well as for his "strong, confident, and assertive playing." His performances have been described as "breathtaking" and "exquisite" and have generated great enthusiasm among his audiences and in the press.

Born in Romania, in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Mr. Szasz began playing the violin at age six under the supervision of his father, a former principal trumpet player with the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of eight he played his first solo recital, and at thirteen he performed his first concerto with a professional orchestra. While a student at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, at only nineteen, Mr. Szasz landed a position with one of the top orchestras in Romania, the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he toured Europe extensively, recorded, and performed as a soloist on many occasions.

Mr. Szasz has won numerous awards in national competitions in Romania as well as international competitions in Italy and the U.S., including the "Public Prize" at the prestigious Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition in Florence, Italy. In the summer of 2006, Mr. Szasz won the position of concertmaster for the Lake Placid Sinfonietta, an annual summer music festival orchestra in Lake Placid, New York.

Music Notes

AMY BEACH (1876-1944) was the first female composer to have a symphony performed by a major orchestra (her “Gaelic” Symphony, premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1896). She was also one of the first American composers to have her music be recognized in Europe, and THE first classical American composer to achieve success without the benefit of European study.

A remarkable child prodigy, she made her public debut as a pianist in 1883, also the year of her first published compositions. In 1885 she performed with the Boston Symphony, but upon her marriage to the distinguished surgeon, Dr. H.H.A. Beach, she curtailed her performing in accordance with his wishes, and focused on composition. She made one performance per year, with the proceeds donated to charity, and one of these performances was of her own piano concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1900. Following the death of her husband in 1910, she resumed performing, and toured Europe to great acclaim, performing her own music, until the onset of WWI.

LEO SOWERBY (1895-1968) was an American composer and church musician and was often called the “Dean of American church music” in the early to mid-20th century. He spent time in France during the First World War in the role of bandmaster. In 1921 he was awarded the Rome Prize (from the American Academy in Rome), the first composer to receive this. He began teaching at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago in 1924. He received the 1946 Pulitzer Prize for Music for his cantata, the *Canticle of the Sun*, written in 1944. In 1919 Sowerby became associate organist at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and in 1927 he became organist and choirmaster at St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago, which was consecrated as a cathedral in 1955 while he was there. In 1962, after his retirement from St. James, he was called to Washington National Cathedral to become the founding director of the College of Church Musicians, a position he held until his death in 1968. He is buried in Washington National Cathedral.

The *Ballade* was originally written in 1949 for English hornist Louis Speyer, with the option of performing it with violin, viola, or clarinet. Complete with varying tempos and frequent modulations, this music is rich with the tonal language of Sowerby that was heavily influenced by the music of George Gershwin.

About Evensong

A NOTE ABOUT EVENSONG: Evensong is the Service of Evening Prayer sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of the day with gratitude, and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. The worship is truly ecumenical, drawing from traditions dating to the Fourth Century.

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

Silence is a difficult find these days. Many of us are even discomforted by it. Yet, God is most noticeably discovered in silence. We join together in quiet meditation prior to the beginning of the service. In this centering, we listen for God speaking to us from within, a voice all-too-often lost in the complex world about us. In finding our center, we are seeking and finding God.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same my Name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered unto my Name, and a pure offering: for my Name shall be great among the heathen. (Malachi 1:11)

The presence of incense is yet another aid to focus our meditation. It calls our attention to the fact that we are no longer in the outer world, but in a sacred space seeking our inner sacredness. It symbolizes the sacrifice of prayer and self to God. You are invited to use incense in your home to heighten your aural experience in this time of worship.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. (Psalm 96:1-2)

Music is another aid to focus our meditation. Allow the wash of sound to envelope you, the choir assisting in the meditation of your sense. Join with spiritual focus to the prayers and psalms offered. Join with voice to the Apostles' Creed, the prayers, and the Hymn. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.



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