



2024-2025  
evensong  
at  
IPC • 4 p.m.

# SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024  
4 PM

THE REV. LUCY E. TURNER, *OFFICIANT*  
DR. JEFF McLELLAND, *CHOIRMASTER*  
NICHOLAS MATHES, *CANTOR*

THE IPC CHOIR

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



## PROCESSION

*The people stand.*

PRECES.....Kenneth Leighton

(1929-1988)

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*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.

PHOS HILARON – "O Gracious Light".....David P. Dahl

(b. 1937)

O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are worthy to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

*A common translation of a late 3rd- or early 4th-century Greek Hymn*

PSALM – "They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships".....Herbert Sumsion

(1899-1995)

They that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business in great waters; These men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep. For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof. They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep: their soul melteth away because of the trouble. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: He delivereth them out of their distress. For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still. Then they are glad because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be. *Psalm 107:23-30*

THE FIRST READING – Jeremiah 31:31-34

MAGNIFICAT in A Major ..... Herbert Sumsion

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. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewn 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 hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.

*The people stand for the GLORIA.*

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 – Matthew 5:14-16

NUNC DIMITTIS in A Major.....Herbert Sumsion

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.

*The people stand for the GLORIA and remain standing for the APOSTLES' CREED*

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 RESPONSES.....Kenneth Leighton

*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.

**ALL** **Our Father...***monotone*

*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

O Gracious God, from whom all good things come: grant to us, your humble servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O Merciful God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Loving God, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ANTHEM – "A Prayer of Compassion" ..... Gwyneth Walker  
(b. 1947)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in the paths of peace. Make Your way plain before my eyes. For it is You, Lord. You, and You, alone, who can make me to dwell in safety. Lead me always to listen. Teach me to live with compassion, that when I come to a place of rest only by Your grace, not by my merit, no praise be mine, but let me keep a heart that still can feel, and eyes that still can weep. Oh, my brother, oh, my sister, all who live in peril for You, let me keep a heart that still can feel...and eyes that still can weep. *Psalms 4:8 & 5:8 | John Greenleaf Whittier | Gwyneth Walker alt.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The people stand.*

HYMN 677 – "The Day Thou Givest, Lord is Ended" .....ST. CLEMENT

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

## CLOSING VOLUNTAIRIES

"Sarabande" .....Joel Martinson  
(b. 1960)

*A Tryptych of Fugues*.....Gerald Near

- I. "Lively, with dash" (b. 1942)
- II. "Slowly, expressively"
- III. "Broadly"

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, *Organ*

## Music Notes

**David Dahl** (b. 1937) is an American composer, organist and teacher, and Professor of Music and University Organist Emeritus from Pacific Lutheran University, where he served for thirty years. He continues in his 36th year as the Director of Music Ministries at Christ Church, Episcopal, in Tacoma, Washington.

**Kenneth Leighton** (1929–1988) was a British composer and pianist. His compositions include church and choral music, pieces for piano, organ, cello, oboe and other instruments, chamber music, concertos, symphonies, and an opera. He had various academic appointments in the Universities of Leeds, Oxford and, primarily, Edinburgh. The IPC Choir sang these responses in his home church, St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral, in 2004

**Herbert Sumsion** (1899–1995) was an English musician who was organist of Gloucester Cathedral from 1928 to 1967. Through his leadership role with the Three Choirs Festival, Sumsion maintained close associations with major figures in England's 20th-century musical renaissance, including Edward Elgar, Herbert Howells, Gerald Finzi, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Although Sumsion is known primarily as a cathedral musician, his professional career spanned more than 60 years and encompassed composing, conducting, performing, accompanying, and teaching. His compositions include works for choir and organ, as well as lesser-known chamber and orchestral works.

**Gwyneth Walker** (b. 1947) was born in New York to a Quaker family and grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut. She taught music for fourteen years at Hartt School of Music, the Hartford Conservatory and the Oberlin College Conservatory, and then moved to a dairy farm in Vermont and went to work as a full-time composer. Her catalog includes over 350 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. ***A Prayer of Compassion*** combines traditional Psalms with the closing lines of Joh Greenleaf Whittier's poem "Divine Compassion." The biblical passages ask for the Lord's guidance that we may walk in the *paths of peace*. Extending the supplication, the poignant Whittier lines ask for human Compassion: *Let me keep a heart that still can feel, and eyes that still can weep*. in today's world of increasing violence, we are often challenged to remain sensitive to suffering, to respond with *a heart that still can feel, and eyes that can still weep*.

A "fugue" is a type of composition where one tune is played and then repeated in different ways to make harmony. The interplay of the tune as it occurs in different voices is called counterpoint. The way the composer controls this counterpoint is the genius of the composition. ***A Triptych of Fugues*** is a perfect example of type of counterpoint. **Gerald Near** (b. 1942) has established himself as one of the important composers of American church music. One of his earliest works of his long career, he premiered this work in an organ class as a student at the University of Michigan.

**Joel Martinson** (b. 1960) is the Director of Music and Organist at The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas. He has a particular penchant for writing lovely melodies with an interesting harmonic language.

British composer **Grayston Ives** (b. 1948) has written primarily sacred and secular music for choir, much of it written for the liturgy of Magdalen College Chapel where he was organist and choir director for 18 years. "Processional" begins and ends with chords of fanfare that bookend a quirky march of playful characters in a gleeful parade!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** The annual IPC Choir Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. The IPC Choir along with members of the Alabama Symphony performing Camille Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*.

**Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>:** The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Religious Arts Festival. This year's theme is "Be Joyful in the Lord: A Celebration of Smiles, Kindness and Community."

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Service of Choral Evensong featuring the IPC Camerata, string orchestra, harp and piano.

**Sunday, March 18:** The Patricia Byrne Memorial Concert for Organ and Orchestra. Featuring organist Ken Cowan and 45 members of the Alabama Symphony.

**Sunday, May 18:** The IPC Choir Spring Concert. Featuring the IPC Choir and members of the Alabama Symphony performing Robert Schumann's *Requiem*.

### 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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