



2023-2024
evensong
at IPC • 4 p.m.

SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

JANUARY 28, 2024
4 PM

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

THE IPC CHOIR

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



PROCESSION

The people stand.

PRECES (Mixolydian Mode).....Richard Webster

(b. 1952)

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.

The people sit.

PSALM 16:5-11Thomas Lee

The people stand for the GLORIA.

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; It is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart therefore is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life, in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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 people sit.

THE FIRST READING – Ephesians 2:1-10

MAGNIFICAT (*Evening Service in B flat*).....Alan Gray
(1855-1935)

The people stand for the GLORIA.

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 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 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 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 – II Corinthians 3:1-6, 17-18

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Evening Service in B flat*).....Alan Gray
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, glory be to the Son, glory be 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.....Richard Webster

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.
Our Father...

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

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto your servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and also that, by you, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord; and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM – "Pilgrims' Hymn"..... Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Even before we call on Your name To ask You, O God, When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer; Unceasing love, O unceasing love, Surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father,
And to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, We breathe Your name, And
through all the days that follow so fast, We trust in You; Endless Your grace, Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and for ever, And unto ages and ages, Amen. *Michael Dennis Browne*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The people stand.

HYMN 677 – "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended" ST. CLEMENT

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARIES

Cantique, Opus 3, No. 1.....Sir Edward William Elgar
(1857-1934)

Elegy.....Sir Alfred Herbert Brewer
(1865-1928)

Nimrod.....Sir Edward William Elgar
from Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma), Op. 36

II. Allegro non troppo e pesante.....Sir Charles Villiers Stanford
from Six Preludes and Postludes, Set One (1852-1924)

Rick Phillips, *Organ*

About the Guest Artist

RICHARD PHILLIPS ("RICK") returned to Highlands United Methodist Church (Birmingham, Alabama) in January of 2000 as Choirmaster and Organist. He was previously on the Highlands staff as Associate Choirmaster and Organist in the late seventies through the late eighties. He has been mentored and taught by Tom Schwartz and Robert Shaw. It was on Mr. Shaw's recommendation that he attend Birmingham Southern College where he won a full scholarship. There he was a student of Dr. Hugh Thomas and Dr. Jim Cook. Rick graduated from Birmingham-Southern College (B.M.Ed) and was awarded the Pi Kappa Lambda award in music for undergraduate studies (This is a national music award which honors and recognizes the scholastic and performance accomplishments of the recipient). In addition, Mr. Phillips has studied with Paul Manz and John Rutter. Mr. Phillips also attended and graduated from the University of Montevallo (M.M.Ed.). Once again, Mr. Phillips was awarded The Pi Kappa Lambda award in music in graduate studies.

In 1992, Mr. Phillips founded and directed the Birmingham Choral Guild. He served in that capacity, frequently working with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, until 2004. From 1982-2018, Rick was the Choirmaster and Organist of The Advent Episcopal School (downtown Birmingham, Alabama). In his free time, Rick enjoys being with his family. He and his wife Suzanne have two daughters, Lucy and Gracie.

Music Notes

SIR EDWARD WILLIAM ELGAR (June 2, 1857 – February 23, 1934) was an English composer, many of whose works have entered the British and international classical concert repertoire. Although Elgar is often regarded as a typically English composer, most of his musical influences were not from England but from continental Europe. He felt himself to be an outsider not only musically but socially. In musical circles dominated by academics, he was a self-taught composer. In the class-conscious society of Victorian and Edwardian Britain, he was acutely sensitive about his humble origins even after he achieved recognition. He struggled to achieve success until his forties when after a series of moderately successful works, his *Enigma Variations* (1899), became immediately popular in Britain and overseas.

Cantique, Opus 3, No 1, is a piece for organ in ABA form. It is majestic in style and uses the full resources of the organ.

SIR ALFRED HERBERT BREWER (June 21, 1865 – March 1, 1928) was an English composer and organist. As organist of Gloucester Cathedral from 1896 until his death, he contributed a good deal to the city's choral society. He had been a Gloucester Cathedral chorister in his boyhood and began his organ studies. The greater part of Brewer's life was devoted to the advancement of the standards of ecclesiastical music. "Elegy" (1916) is a piece which uses a solo stop and is accompanied by the strings, an 8-foot flute, and the 8-foot diapason. The melody is extremely beautiful and melancholy.

NIMROD, from *Variations on an Original Theme* ("Enigma"), Op. 36, was written for orchestra and premiered in June 1899 when Elgar was 42. "Nimrod" is the name given to the ninth and best-known variation in Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, an orchestral work of 14 variations on an original theme composed between 1898 and 1899. "Nimrod" has been considered by many to be the emotional heart of the entire work. There is a long tradition of excerpting this gorgeous, slowly developing variation as a separate piece and of arranging it for different media.

SIR CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD (September 30, 1852 – March 29, 1924) was an Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor of the late Romantic era. Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin. He was instrumental in raising the status of the Cambridge University Musical Society, attracting international stars to perform with it. In 1882, aged 29, he was one of the founding professors of the Royal College of Music where he taught composition for the rest of his life. As a teacher, Stanford based his instruction chiefly on classical principles as exemplified in the music of Brahms. Among his pupils were rising composers whose fame went on to surpass his own, such as Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

II. *Allegro non troppo e pesante* is part of the "Six Short Preludes and Postludes, 1st Set" and was published by Stainer & Bell in 1907.

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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