

Independent Presbyterian Church BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Festival Service: We Bring Our Gift of Music

FEATURING THE MUSIC

OF WILLIAM BRADLEY ROBERTS

February 5, 2023 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Jeff McLelland, Organist and Choirmaster

William Bradley Roberts, Director

THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIR

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHOIR

Episcopal Church of the Ascension Choir

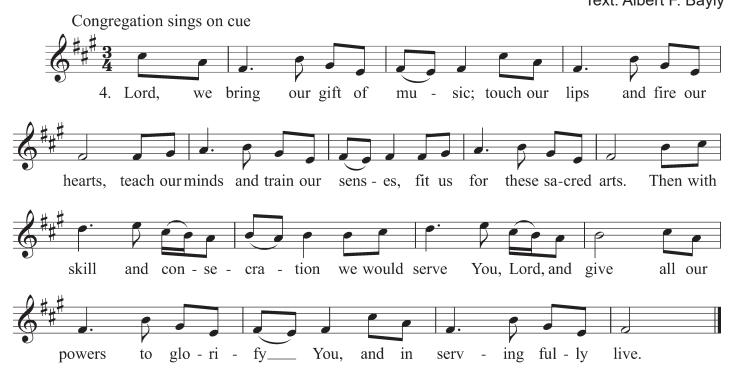
The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor* Independent Presbyterian Church Birmingham, Alabama

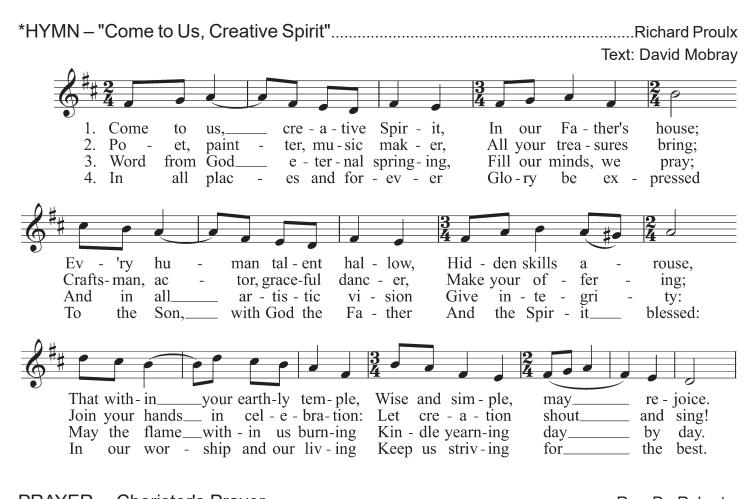


Please stand as you are able where indicated by the asterisk (*). The cross (*) denotes anthems sung by the IPC Choir only.

PRELUDE – "Poème Héroïque"......Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

INTROIT – "When the Morning Stars Together".....Roberts Text: Albert F. Bayly

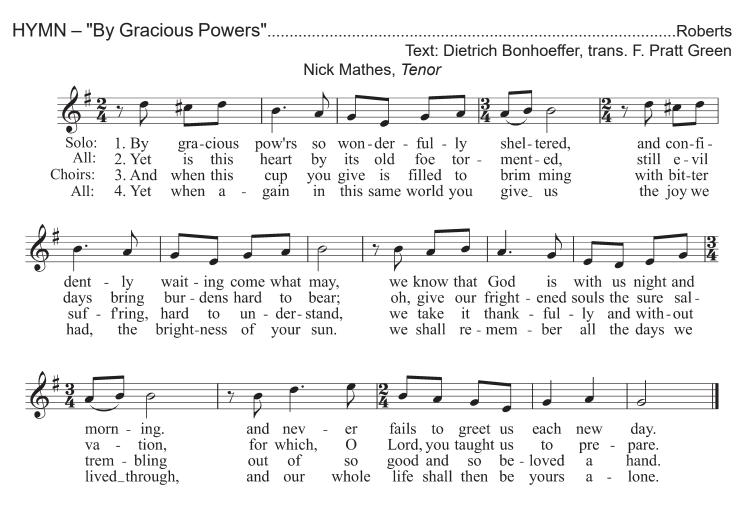




PRAYER – Chorister's Prayer......Rev. Dr. Roberts
Minister
Bless, O Lord, us your servants, who minister in your temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All
Amen.

ANTHEM – "Savior, like a Shepherd lead us".....Roberts Text: Dorothy Ann Thrupp Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for

our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.



READING - "O Sacred River".....Rev. Lant Davis

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

O sacred River, from whose flow The stars, the seas, the cells were cast, Whose playful patterns brought to life The surging earth, the heavens vast: Murmur in us, that we know That you still within us flow.

O sacred Darkness, from whose night The seed may flower, the spirit, bloom, Whose warm embraces brought to pass Creation's fruit, an empty tomb:

To your shadow us invite That we may not shun the night. O sacred Beauty, from whose Word The oceans blast, the tempests play. Whose holy palette brought to light The crimson dawn, translucent day: Wake in us the artist surd That we manifest your Word.

O sacred Banquet, from whose love The thirsty drink, the hungry fare, Who invitation brought to feast The image lost, the heart's despair: To compassion may we move That all feast upon your love.

ANTHEM – "I saw a stranger yestereen".....Roberts

Text: Ancient Gaelic Rune

I saw a stranger yestereen. I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the list'ning place. And with the sacred name of the triune God, He blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

READING......Rev. Melissa Self Patrick

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

How blest are you that show concern for those in need; in times of trouble God will keep you safe indeed. For God will shield your life, prolong your earthly days, and transform even beds of pain to cause for praise.

When I was gravely ill, I prayed to be made whole, Asked God to heal my fevered frame and sinful soul. My gloating enemies their spite could not suppress, and former friends all turned away from my distress. In God I put my trust; no other help I claim. For God alone can plead my cause and clear my name. God will defend all those who live in righteousness; let Israel the Holy One forever bless.

*ANTHEM – "I Sought My God".....Roberts

Text: William Blake

I sought my God, And my God I could not find; I sought my soul, and my soul eluded me; I sought to help my neighbor, sore in need, and I found all three: My God, my soul, and thee.

READING - PSALM 150

All

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the sky, which testifies to his strength! Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his surpassing greatness! Praise him with the blast of the horn; praise him with the lyre and the harp! Praise him with the tambourine and with dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and the flute! Praise him with loud cymbals; praise him with clanging cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

*HYMN 641 – "When in Our Music God is Glorified".....ENGELBERG

PRAYER

O God, we raise the names of those who have led your song, particularly those who have crossed the Jordan, dwelling fully now in your light and love. Bless their legacy of musical praise that it continue to touch the lives of us on earth, while with saints and angels they glorify your Name in heaven. We especially give thanks for the lives of ______. (*The people may add the names of musicians who praise God in the New Jerusalem*)



About the Featured Composer

THE REV. WILLIAM BRADLEY ROBERTS, DMA (born 1947 in Mississippi) is Emeritus Professor of Church Music, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) in suburban Washington, where he served on faculty from 2006 to 2019. His areas of expertise include voice, conducting, composition, and contemplative studies. Before coming to VTS, he was an Episcopal church musician for thirty-three years, serving congregations in Washington, D.C., Arizona, California, Kentucky, and Texas. He has taught on the music faculties of Indiana University Southeast, Southern Seminary, Mars Hills College, and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

While in the Los Angeles area, Roberts sang for seven years in the professional Los Angeles Master Chorale. He now sings bass in the Richmond Symphony Chorus in Richmond, VA. He is the founding music director of Vox Humana, a professional chorus in Richmond.

This is Roberts' first professional engagement in Alabama, but as a boy he came to the northern part of the state to visit relatives.

He is a composer with works published by Augsburg-Fortress, G.I.A., Hope, MorningStar, Paraclete, St. James Music Press, and Selah. He has hymns in several denominational hymnals and has fulfilled commissions from a number of schools, churches, and individuals. Gothic Records has released a recording of Dr. Roberts' compositions, the first in a series, called "New American Choral Music," in this case featuring the Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C., where Roberts was Director of Music Ministries. This recording is available on most standard download services such as iTunes, Spotify, etc.

Dr. Roberts' book, *Music and Vital Congregations*, is available from Church Publishing Inc., New York, in print or electronic format from the publisher or Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and the like.

Roberts has served as chair of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Church Music, the Leadership Program for Musicians, and is currently on the board of Melodious Accord, a non-profit organization that promotes the work of composer Alice Parker. He was on the New Music Commissions Committee for the 2010 national convention of the American Guild of Organists and served on the AGO commission that organized a symposium of the leaders of denominational music organizations like the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Association of Anglican Musicians.

Active as a leader at conferences and workshops, Roberts has made presentations in California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Vermont.

He is delighted to visit Birmingham and work with the choirs in this program.

Participants

Dr. William Bradley Roberts, Director

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Melanie Couch, Organist and Choir Director All Saints Episcopal Church Choir

Michael Sparks, Organist and Choirmaster Episcopal Church of the Ascension Choir

The Rev. Lant Davis, Reader The Rev. Melissa Self Patrick, Reader

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Brass Ensemble

TRUMPET Joe Ardovino Nick Cuilla HORN Valerie Sly TUBA Jeremy Crawford

TROMBONE Jay Evans PERCUSSION Greg Gumina

