



2023-2024  
evensong  
at IPC • 4 p.m.

# SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

4 PM

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

**THE IPC CHOIR**

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



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

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips. (b. 1952)  
*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".....Frank Ferko

O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven, (b. 1950)  
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, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times 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 85 .....Herbert Howells

*The people stand for the GLORIA.* (1892-1983)  
Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people, and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

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 – I Corinthians 13:1-8

MAGNIFICAT (*Collegium Regale*) .....Herbert Howells

*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 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. 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 – Selection from *Epilogue* by the Rev. Rindy Trouteaud

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Collegium Regale*) .....Herbert Howells

Nick Mathes, *Tenor*

*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 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

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 – "Holy Spirit, ever dwelling" ..... Herbert Howells

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light; Holy Spirit ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night; Holy Spirit, ever raising sons of earth to thrones on high; Living, life-imparting Spirit, thee we praise and magnify. Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church's very life; Holy Spirit, ever striving through her in a ceaseless strife; Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ; Thee we praise with endless worship for thy fruit and gifts unpriced. Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry; Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free; Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age, and soul to soul; In a fellowship unending thee we worship and extol. *Timothy Rees*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The people stand.*

HYMN – "All My Hope on God Is Founded" .....MICHAEL



1. All my hope on God is found - ed; He doth still my trust re - new.  
2. Hu - man pride and earth ly glo - ry, Sword and crown be - tray his trust;  
3. God's great good-ness aye en - dur - eth, Deep his wis - dom, pass - ing thought:  
4. Dai - ly doth th'a - migh ty giv - er Boun-teous gifts on us be - stow;  
5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal Sa - cri - fice of praise be done,



Me through change and chance he gui - deth, On - ly good and on - ly true.  
What with care and toil he build - eth, Tower and tem - ple, fall to dust.  
Splend - or, light, and life at - tend him, Beau - ty spring - eth out of naught.  
His de - sire our soul de - light - eth, Plea - sure leads us where we go.  
High a - bove all prai - ses prai - sing For the gift of Christ his Son.



God un - known, He a - lone Calls my heart to be his own.  
But God's power, Hour by hour, Is my tem - ple and my tower.  
Ev - er - more From his store New-born worlds rise and a - dore.  
Love doth stand At his hand; Joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
Christ doth call one and all: Ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARIES

Wondrous Love.....arr. Anthony Giamanco  
(b. 1958)

Fantaisie in A Major.....César Franck  
(1822-1890)

Deo Gracias/Agincourt Hymn .....arr. Healey Willan  
(1880-1968)

Richard Byrd, *Organ*

## About the Guest Musician

**RICHARD BYRD** is organist at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, having previously served at Avondale UMC and St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands. He studied organ with Jim Cook at Birmingham-Southern College and Jim Dorroh at Samford University.

## Music Notes

Much of the music for today's service was written by the composer **HERBERT HOWELLS**. He was one of the most important composers of British choral music of the twentieth century. Howells wrote a set of canticles for every major cathedral and chapel in England. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis you hear today is the "Collegium Regale," written for the King's Chapel in Cambridge in 1956. The hymn tune to "All my hope on God is founded" is named after his son Michael, who died of polio at the age of nine in 1938. Howells wrote the anthem "Holy Spirit, ever dwelling" as a young man while he was sub-organist at Salisbury Cathedral in 1917.

## Upcoming Events

Please join us on Palm Sunday, March 24, for a **SERVICE OF LENTEN VESPERS** at 4 pm in the sanctuary. Led by the IPC Choir, this service will include the *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré with soloist Chris O'Rear and violinist Daniel Szasz.

## 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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