

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

Evensong & Benediction for the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Sunday, 6 February 2022

5:30 pm

PRE-EVENSONG ORGAN RECITAL

played by Dr. Janet E. Hunt

Praeludium et Fuga in D, BWV 532 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Variations sur un thème de Clément Jannequin (1937) Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Ave Maria – Offertoire pour la Fete de l'Annonciation Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Before the entrance, the choir sings the following Marian devotion from the Lady Chapel.

MOTET – Ave Maria

Robert Parsons (c. 1535 – 1572)

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
Amen.*

All stand when the bell is rung at the entrance procession.

OPENING SENTENCES

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. *Psalm 96:9*

PRECES & RESPONSES

William Byrd (c. 1539-1623)

Officiant ✕ O LORD, open thou our lips.

Answer And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Officiant ✕ O God, make speed to save us.

Answer O Lord, make haste to help us.

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. Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

All remain standing to sing the following hymn (found in the hymnals in the pew racks)

OFFICE HYMN – 257 “O Zion, open wide thy gates”

Edmonton

PSALM 48 – *Magnus Dominus (Please be seated).*

chant: William Crotch (1775-1847)

GREAT is the Lord, and highly to be praised * in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. 2 The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth; * upon the north side lieth the city of the great King: God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge. 3 For lo, the kings of the earth * were gathered, and gone by together. 4 They marvelled to see such things; * they were astonished, and suddenly cast down. 5 Fear came there upon them; and sorrow, * as upon a woman in her travail. 6 Thou dost break the ships of the sea * through the east-wind. 7 Like as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; * God upholdeth the same for ever. 8 We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God, * in the midst of thy temple. 9 O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world's end; * thy right hand is full of righteousness. 10 Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughters of Judah be glad, * because of thy judgments. 11 Walk about Sion, and go round about her; * and tell the towers thereof. 12 Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, * that ye may tell them that come after. 13 For this God is our God for ever and ever: * he shall be our guide unto death. Glory be ...

PSALM 87 – *Fundamenta ejus*

chant: Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-56)

HER foundations are upon the holy hills: * the LORD loveth the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. 2 Very excellent things are spoken of thee, * thou city of God. 3 I will make mention of Egypt and Babylon, * among them that know me. 4 Behold, Philistia also; and Tyre, with Ethiopia; * lo, in Sion were they born. 5 Yea, of Sion it shall be reported, this one and that one were born in her; * and the Most High shall stablish her. 6 The LORD shall record it, when he writeth up the peoples; * lo, in Sion were they born. 7 The singers also and trumpeters shall make answer: * All my fresh springs are in thee. Glory be...

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – *Haggai 2:1-9*

In the second year of Darius the king, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, “Speak now to Zerub’babel the son of She-al’ti-el, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehoz’adak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ‘Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerub’babel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehoz’adak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.’”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT – *Evening Service in G (Please stand)* *C. Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. 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 showed 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 remembering 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.

Deborah Abel, soprano

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – *1 John 3:1-8 (Please be seated)*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we

shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

NUNC DIMITTIS – *Evening Service in G (Please stand)*

C.V. Stanford

✠ 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God 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 PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Answer And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Please kneel if you are able to do so.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.

Answer And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Answer And make thy chose people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Answer And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer And take not thy holy Spirit from us.

The First Collect, of the Presentation

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Second Collect, for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Aid against Perils

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

The Grace

✠ THE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

MOTET – *Senex puerum portabat*

William Byrd

Senex puerum portabat:
puer autem senem regebat:
quem virgo peperit,
et post partum virgo permansit:
ipsum quem genuit, adoravit.

*The old man carried the child,
but the child ruled the old man;
him whom the Virgin brought forth,
and after childbirth remained a virgin
him whom she bore, she adored.*

*An offering will be taken during the Anthem for the music program at S. Stephen's.
Our evening choral services are funded entirely outside our operating budget through
the generosity of our parishioners, friends, and visitors. We appreciate your support.*

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Please kneel when the bell is rung.

HYMN – *O Saving Victim, opening wide*

Wareham



1 O SAVING victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below,
Our foes press on from every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

2 All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. *Amen.*

Here follows a period of silence.

The priest may read suitable devotions.

HYMN – *Therefore we, before him bending*

Grafton



1 THEREFORE we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear.

2 Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing
Who from both with both is One. *Amen.*

Priest Thou gavest them Bread from heaven.

People **Containing in itself all sweetness.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left unto us a Memorial of Thy Passion; Grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of Thy redemption; who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

The priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the Congregation with the Blessed Sacrament.

THE DIVINE PRAISES *(said by the Priest and repeated by the Congregation)*

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Incarnate Word.
Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

The bell is rung as the priest places the Sacrament back in the tabernacle.

All stand.

Antiphon: Let us forever adore the Most Holy Sacrament. 1. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye peoples. 2. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord. Glory be... Let us forever adore...

VOLUNTARY – *Postlude pour l'office de Complies*

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Please remain in your pews until the Choir and Altar Party have exited the Church.

Next Evensong: Sunday, 6 March

Pre-Evensong Recital at 5:00 by Jeffrey Mills

Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent at 5:30

About this evening's guest artist

Janet E. Hunt began learning piano with her mother at age five and commenced organ study at age 15. She received performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, Southern Methodist University, and the University of North Texas. At Oberlin, her organ teacher encouraged her to study the harpsichord, resulting in a life-long love of both instruments. She has been a finalist in several prestigious competitions, including the Bodky Competition for Early Music, the Edinburgh Festival Harpsichord Competition, and the SEHKS completion, plus two appearances at the Prix Andre Marchal Competition in Biarritz, France.

About the Feast of the Presentation

Today's Feast is sometimes known as the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin, sometimes as Candlemas. In the Eastern Church it has been called the Meeting of Christ with Simeon. Such a variety of names is sufficient testimony to the wealth of spiritual meaning that generations of Christians have discovered in this small incident. The title, "The Presentation," reminds us of the Jewish law (Exodus 13:2; 22:29) that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared. When Mary placed her small son into the arms of Simeon, it was the meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices, the burnt offerings and oblations, were done away; a new and perfect offering had come into the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt-offering (Genesis 22:8), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross. At every Eucharist those who are in Christ recall that sinless offering and unite "themselves, their souls and bodies" with the self-oblation of their Lord and Savior.

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in Providence**

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