

# The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

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## CLEAR OUR HEART, O GOD: MUSIC FOR THE JOURNEY

*A Vesper Service of Music for Lent*

March 13th, 2022 | 4 p.m.

The Choir of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

Janet Yieh, *organ and piano*

Michael Shake, *conductor*

Wherever you are on  
your journey,  
we welcome you to First  
Church and this service of  
musical worship.

Restrooms may be found in the lobby of the Church House, with an additional facility in the Narthex.

Please silence or turn off all mobile devices.

Applause is an appropriate expression of gratitude for the gifts of music shared today. Applause may be offered at the conclusion of worship, following *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

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Prelude on an Old Folk Tune (1943)

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

### I.

"Lenten Psalm of Awakening," from *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim* (1989) Edward Hays (1931-2016)

Reassurance (1972)

Alice Walker (b. 1944)

Clear Our Heart, O God – a prayer of awareness (2014)

Tom Trenney

Clear our heart, O God, that we may see you. Clear our heart, O God, that we may truly see ourselves. Clear our heart, O God, that we may know the sacredness of this moment and in every moment seek you serve you strengthen you as the Living Presence in every presence. Clear our heart, O God, that we may see.

–John Philip Newell

Sicut cervus (c. 1584)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

–Psalm 42:1

## II.

from *Our Passion for Justice* (1984)

Carter Heyward (b. 1945)

from *Touching Our Strength* (1989)

John 3:16 (2014)

B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)

For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Wondrous Love (1960)

arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925) and Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb who is the Great "I Am," I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and thro' eternity I'll sing on.

—from *General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use*

Love Bade Me Welcome (1993)

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, if I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, you shall be he. I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: so I did sit and eat.

—George Herbert

## III.

A Prayer from the Iona Community

The Word Was God (1996)

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, He has not made.

—John 1:1-3

Quatre Motets sur des thèmes grégoriens, Op. 10 (1960)

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur. Ti-meamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

—Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

*Tota pulchra es, Maria, et macula originalis non est in te. Vestiméntum túum cándidum quasi nix, et fácies túa sicut sol. Tota pulchra es, Maria. Tu gloria Ierusalem, tu laetitia Israel, tu honorificentia populi nostri. Tota pulchra es, Maria.*

You are all beautiful, Mary, and the original stain [of sin] is not in you. Your clothing is as white as snow, and your face is like the sun. You are all beautiful, Mary. You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you are the honor of our people. You are all beautiful, Mary.

—Second Vespers for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

*Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo Ecclesiam meam.*  
Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.

—Matthew 16:18-19

*Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui: et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui: praestet fides supplementum sensuum defectui. Genitori, genitoque laus et jubilatio, salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio: procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.*

Therefore, so great a sacrament; let us worship with bowed heads. Let the ancient practice give way to the new rite. Let faith supply a substitute for the failure of the senses. To the begetter and the begotten be praise and jubilation. Hail, honor, virtue also, and blessing. To the one proceeding from both, let there be equal praise. Amen.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

## IV.

Starting Over

Anna McKenzie

Cantique de Jean Racine, Op. 11 (1865)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

*Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance, jour éternel de la terre et des cieux, de la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence: Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.*

Word of the Highest, our only hope, eternal day of earth and the heavens, we break the silence of the peaceful night; Savior Divine, cast your eyes upon us!

*Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante; que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix; dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!*

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, that all hell may flee at the sound of your voice; banish the slumber of a weary soul, that brings forgetfulness of your laws!

*Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle, pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé; reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle, et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.*

O Christ, look with favor upon your faithful people now gathered here to praise you; receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory; may they go forth filled with your gifts.

—Jean-Baptiste Racine

The Road Home (2002)

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago? All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done. As I wake from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty as where you belong: rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

—Michael Dennis Browne

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (2002)

arr. Leo Nestor (1948-2019)

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy grace I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me while a sinner, wandering from the fold of God. He, to rescue me from danger, interspersed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face; clothed then in blood washed linen how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace; come, my Lord, do no tarry, take my ransomed soul away! Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day.

—Robert Robinson, alt. *A Collection of Hymns used by the Church of Christ in Angel Alley*

The Choir of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York  
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

SOPRANO

Christina Angelopoulos  
Katherine Brown  
Megan Gillis  
Ellen Hagopian  
Samantha Noonan  
Elizabeth White-Pultz  
Kathie Young

TENOR

Ryan Bauer-Walsh  
Bobby Cooper  
Sean Fallen  
Nick Fitzer  
Sam Mathis  
Mark Robertson  
Arri Simon

ALTO

James Brown  
LouAnne Gilleland  
Elizabeth Hubbell-Riggs  
Maggie McGovern  
Hannah Nacheman  
Elizabeth Picker  
Maggie Tigie  
Ann Timmons

BASS

Evan Henke  
Dominic Infrerra  
Bobby Mahurin  
Julian Morris  
Richard Storm

READERS

Hannah Faye Allred  
Barbara Sherman  
Alexis Schutz  
Ann Timmons

**Welcome to First Church!**

We are so glad you are here.



Scan to make a donation toward  
our Ministry of Music.

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