

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

VESPERS SERVICE OF MUSIC

December 4th, 2022 | 4 p.m.

The Choir and Orchestra of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York
Michael Shake, *conductor*

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

Childcare is available for children under three years on the third floor of the Church House.

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 after the final movement of the Bach *Magnificat*.

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

I.

Dixit et Magnificat, KV 193/186g (1774)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo;
sede a dextris meis,
donec ponam inimicos tuos
scabellum pedum tuorum.
Virgam virtutis tuae emittet
Dominus ex Sion:
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.
Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae,
in splendoribus sanctorum:
ex utero ante luciferum genui te.
Juravit Dominus,
et non poenitebit eum,
Tu es sacerdos in aeternum
secundum ordinem Melchisedech.
Dominus a dextris tuis,
confregit in die irae suae reges.
Judicabit in nationibus,
implebit ruinas:
conquasabit capita in terra multorum.
De torrente in via bibet,
propterea exaltabit caput.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper.
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

*The Lord said to my Lord:
sit at my right hand,
until I place your enemies
as a footstool for your feet.
The rod of your power
the Lord will send forth from Zion:
rule in the midst of your enemies.
Sovereignty is with you on the day of your strength,
in the splendor of the Holy Ones:
out of the womb before the light I begot you.
The Lord has sworn,
and will not repent of it:
You are priest forever
according to the order of Melchisedech.
The Lord at your right hand
crushes kings in the day of His wrath.
He will pass judgment on the nations;
he will pile up calamities,
and shatter heads in many lands.
He will drink from the rushing stream on the way;
therefore He shall lift up His head.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,
and for generations of generations. Amen.*

-Psalm 110, and the Lesser Doxology

The text and translation for the *Magnificat* may be found on the next page.

II.

“Strati,” from *Suite for String Orchestra* (2018)

Libby Croad

III.

Magnificat, BWV 243 (1723/1733)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
words from Luke 1:46-55, Luke 2:14, and
Martin Luther (1483-1546), and Paul Eber (1511-1569)

CHORUS

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

SOPRANO: Samantha Noonan

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutary meo. *And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

CHORALE: Christina Angelopoulous, Katherine Brown, Maggie Tigue, Sam Rosner, and Joey LaPlant

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her,
Ich bring euch gute neue Mär;
der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
davon ich sing'n und sagen will.

*From heaven on high I come here,
I bring good news to you;
I bring so much good news
of which I will sing and speak.*

SOPRANO: Maggie Tigue

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent.

*For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed...*

CHORUS

Omnes generations.

by all generations.

BASS: Andrew Martens

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius.

*For the Mighty One has done has done
great things for me, and holy is His name.*

CHORALE: CHORUS

Freut euch und jubiliert;
zu Bethlehem gefunden wird
das herzeliebe Jesulein,
das soll euer Freud und Wonne sein.

*Rejoice and celebrate;
at Bethlehem will be found
the heart's darling little Jesus,
who shall be your joy and delight.*

ALTO and TENOR: Maggie McGovern and Sam Rosner

Et misericordia a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.

*His mercy is for those that fear Him from
generation to generation.*

CHORUS

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

*He has shown strength with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts
of their hearts.*

CHORALE: CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Et in terra pax hominibus, bona voluntas!

*Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace and good will to humankind!*

TENOR: Jesse Darden

Deposuit potentes de sede
et exaltavit humiles.

*He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones and lifted up the lowly.*

ALTO: James Brown

Esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.*

CHORALE, SOPRANO and BASS: Shanelle Woods and Joey LaPlant

Virga Jesse floruit,
Emmanuel noster apparuit;
induit carnem hominis,
fit puer delectabilis;
Alleluja.

*The branch of Jesse flowers,
our Emmanuel appears;
He takes on the flesh of humanity,
becoming a charming boy;
Alleluia.*

SOPRANOS and ALTO: Elizabeth White-Pultz, Katherine Brown, and James Brown

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiae suae.

*He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy.*

CHORUS

Sicut locutus est ad Patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

*According to the promise He made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to His descendants forever.*

CHORUS

Gloria Patri, Gloria Filio,
Gloria et Spiritui Sancto!
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER AND BLESSING

*Please join us for a festive reception, and explore our Tartan Christmas Fair
located in the South Wing, following the service.*

TODAY'S MUSIC

Beyond the 150 Psalms – the “hymnal” of the Old Testament – is an additional body of songs called *canticles*. The story of Christ’s birth and early life that unfolds in the initial chapters of the Gospel of Luke include four canticles, two which are widely known from untold musical settings inspired by them: the song of Mary, the *Magnificat*; and, the song of the angels, the *Gloria in excelsis*. Both are songs of joy. While the *Gloria* is proclaimed literally by a chorus of angels to a group of shepherds, the *Magnificat* is person to person, Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Author Carl Daw writes, “[the *Magnificat*] is significant, because it demonstrates the importance of human relationship in nurturing expressions of faith. In other words, Mary’s great declaration was not made in the rarefied environment of an angelic encounter or in a grand religious assembly, but in the midst of an intimate visit to a relative. It is an encouragement to all believers to voice their faith in the midst of ordinary life.”

Beginning in the 6th century the *Magnificat* was included in the Roman Catholic evening office – or, service – of vespers. Mozart’s *Dixit et Magnificat* was composed for a vespers service at the Salzburg cathedral in 1774. This was a rather unhappy period when the young composer was a court musician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. The Prince-Archbishop’s mind toward austerity and brevity of the worship liturgy necessitated musical economy from Mozart. He gets down to business in these two compact movements. *Dixit dominus*, Latin for the first words of Psalm 110, was sung at the beginning of vespers; the *Magnificat* at the close.

The break from the Roman church in 1517 – the Protestant Reformation – did not wholesale discard traditions that had evolved over the centuries. The vespers service is one of these. Five decades before Mozart, Bach was appointed cantor for the Lutheran church of Saint Thomas, Leipzig. At Saint Thomas, the tradition for vespers was that the *Magnificat* was sung in German on ordinary Sundays, Latin on special feast days. For his first Leipzig Christmas – one of the feast days – Bach composed this large-scale setting of the *Magnificat*. The text is interpolated over 12 movements, expanded by four interspersed chorales in German and Latin, one of which is the *Gloria in excelsis*. In a 1733 revision, the four “Christmas” chorales were removed, thus allowing the canticle to be sung for any festive service.

Between the choral settings, we take a brief interlude with music from the present day. Libby Croad is a composer, arranger and violinist based in London. She studied violin and composition at the Royal Academy of Music, where she developed her love of choral, string and piano writing. In “Strati,” Croad layers entries from each section, double bass to violin, one on top of the other. The percussive plucked-string effect gives way to sustained lines and rich sonorities before, in a reverse of the beginning, the layers fade away. “Strati” was first broadcast on BBC Radio 3 for International Women’s Day in 2018, with the entire Suite performed by the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and broadcast on Classic FM in 2021. -Michael Shake

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, Ellen Hagopian, Samantha Noonan,
Elizabeth White-Pultz, Rebecca Williamson, Shanelle Woods, Kathie Young

ALTO James Brown, Juliana Galletti, LouAnne Gilleland, Anne Gray, Elizabeth Hubbell Riggs,
Maggie McGovern, Maggie Tigue, Ann Timmons

TENOR Jesse Darden, Ryan Bauer-Walsh, Michael Martin, Mark Robertson, Samuel Rosner

BASS Evan Henke, Joey LaPlant, Andrew Martens, Keith Sisterhenm, Joel Zeltzer

The Orchestra

Sato Moughalian, *contractor*

VIOLIN I Jorge Avila, *concertmaster*, Susan Dominguez, Andrea Schultz

VIOLIN II Ellen Jewett, *principal*, Tallie Brunfelt, Katherine Hannauer

VIOLA Kathryn Lockwood, *principal*, Alissa Smith

CELLO Arthur Fiacco, *principal*

BASS Roger Wagner, *principal*

FLUTE Sato Moughalian, *principal*, Reva Youngstein

OBOE Melanie Feld Carp, *principal*, Noah Kay

BASSOON Stephanie Corwin, *principal*

TRUMPET Thomas Hoyt, *principal*, John Sheppard, Dylan Schwab

TIMPANI Joseph Tompkins, *principal*

ORGAN Andrew Henderson, *principal*

Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to make a donation toward
our Ministry of Music.



More about Advent and Christmas
at First Church!

