

As was fully expected, we have officially cancelled the St. Martin's Chamber Choir concert(s) that was (were) to have taken place the first weekend in June, featuring the Ralph Vaughan Williams Mass in G minor. We are going to try and replace it with a live-streamed event sometime a bit later in June sung by a socially-distanced octet; the details are still being ironed out, so that's all I'll say at this point.

It's impossible to work for such a concatenation of circumstances, but last Sunday's choral matins service was one of the better ones we've done. Perhaps we're getting used to blending while socially distanced; or perhaps the atmospheric pressure coupled with the humidity and the phase of the moon was such that everything worked together perfectly! ;-). Plus, the sermon was beautiful.

Anyway, if you have been saying to yourself, "Yeah, one of these days I should check out what Tim's doing at these services," this would be one I'd be proud to have you watch. Here's the link to it on our webpage:

<http://www.standrewdenver.org/online-worship#past-services>

Click on the one for May 24, Easter 7. In case the service leaflet is gone, here's a brief outline of the music:

Organ voluntaries: Chant de Paix (Langlais), Prelude in Classical Style (Young)

Responses: Ayleward

Hymn: 215 (*In Babilone*)

Venite: Krueger

Jubilate: Camidge

Anthem: "O clap your hands" (Weelkes)

Hymn: 603 (*St. Botolph*)

Organ voluntary: "Crown him" (Tambling)

For live services: go to the St. Andrew's Facebook page (no need to join Facebook or have an account) here:

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/> Wait for the live feed to appear (usually 5 minutes before published service time) and click on it.

For recorded services, you can either go to the link above, and click on "Videos" in the menu to the side, and choose from the many we've done so far; OR go to our webpage (link in 1st paragraph above).

For the most recent/upcoming service, you can access a service leaflet (Order of Service) here:

<http://www.standrewdenver.org/online-worship#leaflets>

Leaflets of older services are not stored here, so that's a slight incentive to watch a service live or within a few days of its having taken place.

Normally this would be our final Evensong of the season, for tomorrow is the last Thursday in May. But I'm happy to say that we've decided to extend things this year through June, so we'll do four more after this one, on the Thursdays in June.

Tomorrow's Evensong marks the life of John Calvin (1509-1564), one of the most influential of the early Protestant reformers. Coming slightly after Martin Luther, he advocated going further than Luther did in a radical break with Roman Catholicism, and the services he devised (in what eventually became the Presbyterian denomination) were starkly different, compared with the relatively mild liturgical reforms of Luther.

May 28, 2020, 5:45pm Choral Evensong: *John Calvin*

Voluntaries: "Be still" by Ashley Grote (b. 1982)
Responses: William Smith (1645-1693)
Canticle of Light: "Ye children which do serve the Lord," tune by Matthias Greitter (1495-1550),
harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1633)
Psalm: 119:1-8 – plainchant
Service: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in C
Anthem: *Sicut cervus* by G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)
Office Hymn: 36 (*Le Cantique de Simeon*)
Voluntary: *Poco vivace* by Hermann Schroeder (1904-1984)

In devising the music, I consulted with friend and former St. Andrew's parishioner Steve M., raised as a Calvinist (and still much influenced by him). I say 'former parishioner,' but he's been faithfully watching our Evensong services for the last 10 weeks from his new abode in North Carolina, so perhaps one could say he *still is* a parishioner-- (certainly more active than some who live a lot closer!) ;-) I asked him what would be appropriate music for John Calvin. His reply was that Calvin was all about singing the psalms -- in fact, he deplored the singing of any words in church that were not actual biblical texts, and felt that the psalms were the foremost of those he thought appropriate. Steve is also a great enthusiast of Renaissance music, so he suggested a Renaissance setting of a psalm text, and cited Palestrina's *Sicut cervus* as an example. His next sentence I shall quote verbatim: "Depending on one's perspective, [singing *Sicut cervus*] would be (i) an abomination, given Palestrina's work for the Pope, (ii) a thumb in the eye to the Reformation, or (iii) a nice illustration of the ecumenicism that is St. Andrew's!" We'll go with the third option. :-)

Two other pieces in the service are connected with Calvin -- Matthias Greitter was a Catholic musician in Strasbourg who converted to Calvinism and wrote many of the tunes (including this one) for Calvin's Geneva Psalter of 1561. Calvin proposed the metricization of psalm translations so that they could be sung to formulaic tunes (this is called "Metrical Psalmody"). So the choir sings one of these metrical psalms (the Canticle of Light) and the congregation will sing another (Hymn 36).

Who knew you could have so much fun in a Calvin-inspired service!!

This coming Sunday is Pentecost, one of the principal feasts of the Christian calendar. Here's the music we're singing:

May 31, 11:00am, Choral Matins: Pentecost

Organ Voluntaries: Prelude on *Down Ampney* by David Blackwell (b. 1961)
Responses: Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)
Te Deum: David Clark Isele (d. 2017)
Psalm: 116 - Anglican chant by William Lawes (1602-1645)
Jubilate: Charles Stanford (1852-1924) in C
Anthem: "Come down, O Love divine" by William H. Harris (1883-1976)
Hymns: 225 (*Salve festa dies*), 511 (*Abbot's Leigh*)
Organ Voluntary: Divertimento on "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" by Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

David Clark Isele was the brother of another former parishioner (and choir member) of St. Andrew's, Bronwyn Alleman, who moved to Oregon a few years ago. Isele was, among many other things, an organist and choir director (he directed the Notre Dame Glee Club in the 1960s), most recently from Florida, where he died just a few years ago. In his final years, he wrote a setting of *Ave verum corpus* for the St. Andrew's choir that we still sing on occasion. This Te Deum was written for the church where he was organist (Roman Catholic) in Florida in the 1970s.

That's it for this week. All the best to everyone!

Tim

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