

FESTIVAL SERVICE: WE BRING OUR GIFT OF MUSIC

FEATURING THE MUSIC
OF WILLIAM BRADLEY ROBERTS

FEBRUARY 5, 2023
4:00 P.M.

DR. JEFF McLELLAND,
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

WILLIAM BRADLEY ROBERTS,
DIRECTOR

THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH CHOIR

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHOIR

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
CHOIR

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



GOD'S
BLESSINGS
THROUGH
COLOR
AND LIGHT

52nd ANNUAL
**RELIGIOUS
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

JAN 29-FEB 5, 2023

Independent Presbyterian Church
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Please stand as you are able where indicated by the asterisk (*).
The cross (✠) denotes anthems sung by the IPC Choir only.

PRELUDE – "Poème Héroïque".....Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

✠"Our souls in silence wait".....William Bradley Roberts
Text: Anonymous

Our souls in silence wait for God alone.
Here our weakness is steadied by God's strength,
here our hearts find their calm,
here our fears are cast out
by God's perfect love.
Inhabit this silence, O God,
The mystery of your presence
filling our spirits,
renewing our hearts and our minds,
enfolding us in love and peace.

INTROIT – "When the Morning Stars Together".....Roberts
Text: Albert F. Bayly

Congregation sings on cue

4. Lord, we bring our gift of mu - sic; touch our lips and fire our
hearts, teach our minds and train our sens - es, fit us for these sa-cred arts. Then with
skill and con - se - cra - tion we would serve You, Lord, and give all our
powers to glo - ri - fy You, and in serv - ing ful - ly live.

*HYMN – "Come to Us, Creative Spirit"Richard Proulx

Text: David Mobray



1. Come to us, _____ cre - a - tive Spir - it, In our Fa - ther's house;
2. Po - et, paint - ter, mu - sic mak - er, All your trea - sures bring;
3. Word from God _____ e - ter - nal spring - ing, Fill our minds, we pray;
4. In all plac - es and for - ev - er Glo - ry be ex - pressed



Ev - 'ry hu - man tal - ent hal - low, Hid - den skills a - rouse,
Crafts - man, ac - tor, grace - ful danc - er, Make your of - fer - ing;
And in all _____ ar - tis - tic vi - sion Give in - te - gri - ty:
To the Son, _____ with God the Fa - ther And the Spir - it _____ blessed:



That with - in _____ your earth - ly tem - ple, Wise and sim - ple, may _____ re - joice.
Join your hands _____ in cel - e - bra - tion: Let cre - a - tion shout _____ and sing!
May the flame _____ with - in us burn - ing Kin - dle yearn - ing day _____ by day.
In our wor - ship and our liv - ing Keep us striv - ing for _____ the best.

PRAYER – Chorister's PrayerRev. Dr. Roberts

Minister Bless, O Lord, us your servants, who minister in your temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

ANTHEM – "Savior, like a Shepherd lead us"Roberts

Text: Dorothy Ann Thrupp

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

HYMN – "By Gracious Powers".....Roberts

Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, trans. F. Pratt Green

Nick Mathes, *Tenor*



Solo: 1. By gra-cious pow'rs so won-der - ful - ly shel-tered, and con-fi-
 All: 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment- ed, still e - vil
 Choirs: 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim ming with bit-ter
 All: 4. Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us the joy we



dent - ly wait - ing come what may, we know that God is with us night and
 days bring bur - dens hard to bear; oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal -
 suf - fring, hard to un - der - stand, we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out
 had, the bright-ness of your sun. we shall re - mem - ber all the days we



morn - ing. and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 va - tion, for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 trem - bling out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 lived through, and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

READING – "O Sacred River".....Rev. Lant Davis

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

O sacred River, from whose flow
 The stars, the seas, the cells were cast,
 Whose playful patterns brought to life
 The surging earth, the heavens vast:
 Murmur in us, that we know
 That you still within us flow.

O sacred Beauty, from whose Word
 The oceans blast, the tempests play.
 Whose holy palette brought to light
 The crimson dawn, translucent day:
 Wake in us the artist surd
 That we manifest your Word.

O sacred Darkness, from whose night
 The seed may flower, the spirit, bloom,
 Whose warm embraces brought to pass
 Creation's fruit, an empty tomb:
 To your shadow us invite
 That we may not shun the night.

O sacred Banquet, from whose love
 The thirsty drink, the hungry fare,
 Who invitation brought to feast
 The image lost, the heart's despair:
 To compassion may we move
 That all feast upon your love.

♦ANTHEM – "I saw a stranger yestereen".....Roberts

Text: Ancient Gaelic Rune

I saw a stranger yestereen. I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the list'n'ing place. And with the sacred name of the triune God, He blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

READING.....Rev. Melissa Self Patrick
Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

How blest are you that show
concern for those in need;
in times of trouble God will keep
you safe indeed.
For God will shield your life,
prolong your earthly days,
and transform even beds of pain
to cause for praise.

In God I put my trust;
no other help I claim.
For God alone can plead my cause
and clear my name.
God will defend all those
who live in righteousness;
let Israel the Holy One
forever bless.

When I was gravely ill,
I prayed to be made whole,
Asked God to heal my fevered frame
and sinful soul.
My gloating enemies
their spite could not suppress,
and former friends all turned away
from my distress.

♠ANTHEM – "I Sought My God".....Roberts
Text: William Blake

I sought my God,
And my God I could not find;
I sought my soul,
and my soul eluded me;
I sought to help my neighbor,
sore in need,
and I found all three:
My God, my soul, and thee.

READING - PSALM 150

All **Praise the LORD!**
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in the sky, which testifies to his strength!
Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with the blast of the horn;
praise him with the lyre and the harp!
Praise him with the tambourine and with dancing;
praise him with stringed instruments and the flute!
Praise him with loud cymbals;
praise him with clanging cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

*HYMN 641 – "When in Our Music God is Glorified".....ENGELBERG

PRAYER

O God, we raise the names of those who have led your song, particularly those who have crossed the Jordan, dwelling fully now in your light and love. Bless their legacy of musical praise that it continue to touch the lives of us on earth, while with saints and angels they glorify your Name in heaven. We especially give thanks for the lives of _____. (*The people may add the names of musicians who praise God in the New Jerusalem*)

ANTHEM – "May the Angels of God Watch Over You"Roberts Text: Shannon Johnston

May the angels of God watch over you;
may the love of God enfold you;
and may all the saints in heaven and on earth
pray with you and for you.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

*HYMN – "God of Grace and God of Laughter"Roberts Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.



All: 1. God of grace and God of laugh-ter, sing - ing worlds from nought to be
Choirs: 2. When our lives are torn by sad-ness, heal our wounds with tune - ful balm;
All: 3. Turn our sigh - ing in - to sing - ing, mu - sic born of hope re - stored:



sun and stars and all there - af - ter joined in cos - mic har - mo - ny:
when all seems dis - cor - dant mad-ness, help us find a meas-ured calm.
set our souls and voic - es ring - ing, tune our hearts in true ac - cord:



give us songs of joy and won - der, mu - sic mak - ing hearts re - joice;
Stead - y us with mu - sic's an - chor when the storms of life in - crease;
till we form a might - y cho - rus join - ing an - gel choirs a - bove,



let our prais - es swell like thun - der, ech - o - ing our Mak - er's voice.
in the midst of hurt and ran - chor, make us in - stru - ments of peace.
with all those who went be - fore us, in e - ter - nal hymns of love.

POSTLUDE – "Septimi Tempri"Robin Dinda (b. 1959)

About the Featured Composer

THE REV. WILLIAM BRADLEY ROBERTS, DMA (born 1947 in Mississippi) is Emeritus Professor of Church Music, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) in suburban Washington, where he served on faculty from 2006 to 2019. His areas of expertise include voice, conducting, composition, and contemplative studies. Before coming to VTS, he was an Episcopal church musician for thirty-three years, serving congregations in Washington, D.C., Arizona, California, Kentucky, and Texas. He has taught on the music faculties of Indiana University Southeast, Southern Seminary, Mars Hills College, and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

While in the Los Angeles area, Roberts sang for seven years in the professional Los Angeles Master Chorale. He now sings bass in the Richmond Symphony Chorus in Richmond, VA. He is the founding music director of Vox Humana, a professional chorus in Richmond.

This is Roberts' first professional engagement in Alabama, but as a boy he came to the northern part of the state to visit relatives.

He is a composer with works published by Augsburg-Fortress, G.I.A., Hope, MorningStar, Paraclete, St. James Music Press, and Selah. He has hymns in several denominational hymnals and has fulfilled commissions from a number of schools, churches, and individuals. Gothic Records has released a recording of Dr. Roberts' compositions, the first in a series, called "New American Choral Music," in this case featuring the Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C., where Roberts was Director of Music Ministries. This recording is available on most standard download services such as iTunes, Spotify, etc.

Dr. Roberts' book, *Music and Vital Congregations*, is available from Church Publishing Inc., New York, in print or electronic format from the publisher or Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and the like.

Roberts has served as chair of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Church Music, the Leadership Program for Musicians, and is currently on the board of Melodious Accord, a non-profit organization that promotes the work of composer Alice Parker. He was on the New Music Commissions Committee for the 2010 national convention of the American Guild of Organists and served on the AGO commission that organized a symposium of the leaders of denominational music organizations like the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Association of Anglican Musicians.

Active as a leader at conferences and workshops, Roberts has made presentations in California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Vermont.

He is delighted to visit Birmingham and work with the choirs in this program.

Participants

Dr. William Bradley Roberts, Director

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Melanie Couch, Organist and Choir Director
All Saints Episcopal Church Choir

Michael Sparks, Organist and Choirmaster
Episcopal Church of the Ascension Choir

The Rev. Lant Davis, Reader
The Rev. Melissa Self Patrick, Reader



Brass Ensemble

TRUMPET
Joe Ardivino
Nick Cuilla

HORN
Valerie Sly

TUBA
Jeremy Crawford

TROMBONE
Jay Evans

PERCUSSION
Greg Gumina



INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35205
IPC-USA.ORG