

*Lord, we bring our gift of music;  
touch our lips and fire our hearts;  
teach our minds and train our senses.*

*Fit us for this sacred art.  
Then with skill and consecration  
we would serve you, Lord,  
and give all our powers to glorify You,  
and in serving fully live.*

Albert F. Bayly



THE WORSHIP OF GOD · FEBRUARY 6, 2025 · 7:30PM  
~Polyphony Conference Worship Service~

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Dr. Chris George  
*Senior Pastor*

ORGAN PRELUDE

*Organ Hymn*

*Raymond H. Haan*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Blaine Colliver, crucifer; Hannah Claire Jowers and Isabel Young, acolytes

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98

Dr. George

Sing to God a new song; for God has done marvelous things.

**With their right hand and holy arm have they won the victory.**

God has made known their victory; their righteousness they have openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**God remembers their mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to God, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

**Sing to God with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the Ruler, God.  
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it; the lands and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before God, when God comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall God judge the world and the peoples with equity.**

CHORAL INTROIT

*Cantate Domino  
(O sing to the Lord.)*

*Giuseppi Pitoni*

INVOCATION

Dr. George

# When the Morning Stars Together

1 When the morn-ing stars to - geth - er their Cre - a - tor's glo - ry sang,  
 2 When in syn - a - gogue and tem - ple voic - es raised the psalm - ists' songs,  
 3 Voice and in - stru - ment in un - ion through the a - ges spoke your praise.  
 4 Lord, we bring our gift of mu - sic; touch our lips and fire our hearts,

and the an - gel host all shout - ed till with joy the heav - ens rang,  
 of - fer - ing the ad - o - ra - tion that a - lone to you be - longs;  
 Plain - song, tune - ful hymns, and an - thems told your faith - ful, gra - cious ways.  
 teach our minds and train our sens - es, fit us for this sa - cred art.

then your wis - dom and your great - ness their ex - ult - ant mu - sic told,  
 when the sing - ers and the cym - bals with the trum - pet made ac - cord,  
 Choir and or - ches - tra and or - gan, each a sa - cred of - fering brought,  
 Then with skill and con - se - cra - tion we would serve you, Lord, and give

all the beau - ty and the splen - dor that your might - y works un - fold.  
 glo - ry filled the house of wor - ship, and all knew your pres - ence, Lord.  
 while, in - spired by your own Spir - it, po - et and com - pos - er wrought.  
 all our powers to glo - ri - fy you, and in serv - ing ful - ly live.

## CHORAL MUSIC    *The Beauty of This Sacred Place*

Text, Marilyn Biery  
Music, James Biery

Choir only: verses one through four

*The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.  
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.*

*The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;  
with joyful hearts sing all day long; God's blessings satisfy the soul.*

*We look into each person's eyes and see such longing hunger there.  
Respond with love to others' cries; our neighbor's burdens gladly bear.*

*So many struggle and despair; we hear their silent voices plead;  
our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need.*

All (remain seated)

The musical score is written for a choir in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves form the first verse, and the next four staves form the second verse. The music is simple and melodic, with a final double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

The beau - ty of this sa - cred place  
in - spires our hearts and minds to grow.  
We sing with love, be - stowed by grace;  
from God all rich - est bless - ings flow.  
We sing with love, be - stowed by grace;  
from God all rich - est bless - ings flow.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Dr. Jim Smith  
Pastoral Care Assistant

VOCAL SOLO

*How Can I Keep from Singing*  
*American folksong; text, Pauline T; music, Robert Lowery*  
David Farwig, soloist

Arr. Richard Walters

PRAYER OF MEDITATION with OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Smith

†HYMN 598

*Jesus Is the Song*

SIMPSON

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV) Rev. Rebecca Caswell-Speight  
*Minister of Families and Faith Formation*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

For the word of God in scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us,

**Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL MUSIC

*Speak to One Another of Psalms*

Jean Berger

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*The Meditations of My Heart*

Elaine Hagenberg

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in  
Thy sight, O Lord. O Lord my Rock, O Lord my Strength,  
O Lord my God and Redeemer.*

HOMILY

Dr. Don E. Saliers


*William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Theology and Worship*

# † CLOSING HYMN

## Eternal God


John Rutter

**Organ** **VERSES 1 and 4**




Verses 2 and 3: choir only

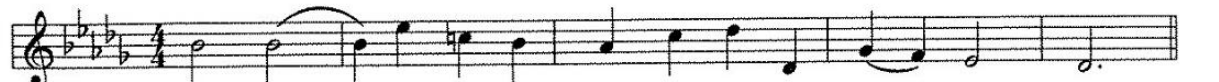
1. E - ter - nal God, we  
4. And when at last we



give you thanks for mu - sic, ——— Blest gift from heav'n to all your  
come in - to your king - dom, ——— All dis - cord o - ver and all



ser - vants here on earth: In time of joy a crown, in sor - row con - so -  
earth - ly la - bor done, Then sound and si - lence yield be - fore one e - qual —



la - tion; ——— Com - pan - ion through our days of tears ——— and mirth.  
mu - sic, ——— And with the Giv - er shall our souls ——— be one.

*Verse 2: We give You thanks for every sound of beauty: for sweetest harmony that echoes in our hearts; for melodies that soar on high like birds at morning; for voice and instrument in all their parts.*

*Verse 3: As we are blest, so may our gift bless others: May hearts be touched and spirits lifted up anew. Let music draw together those who live as strangers, bring joy to those we love, in thankfulness true.*

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## PARTING WORDS

Dr. Saliers

## ORGAN POSTLUDE

## Jubilation

Jason D. Payne

(adapted from Psalm 98:4.)

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

† All who are able are invited to stand.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, Danny Vancil, director  
Heather Huff, pianist; Jason Payne, organist  
John Bryant, Claton Chastain, trumpets; Tommy Cox, Rudy Wilson, trombones

**Dr. David Farwig** is a professional vocalist, conductor and clinician who has devoted his life to working with choirs. He has served as clinician and consultant for a wide variety of ensembles from high school to church choirs and professional choirs, including the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants (D.C.), the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and the St. Martin's Chamber Choir (Denver, CO). Dr. Farwig was the artistic director of the Alpine Chorale in Arvada, CO, and the assistant conductor of the Conservatory Choirs at the University of Missouri's Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, as well as a visiting professor of music at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music where he taught undergraduate and graduate choral conducting, choral literature and music history. Dr. Farwig is a professional concert vocalist, engaging in solo and choral performances throughout the United States and Europe with organizations such as the Carmel (CA), Oregon, and Victoria Bach Festivals (TX); the Santa Fe Opera and the Santa Fe Symphony (NM); the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado; the Colorado Bach Ensemble, and the St. Martin's Chamber Choir (CO); Choral Arts Northwest (WA); Seraphic Fire (FL); and True Concord Voices and Orchestra (AZ). Dr. Farwig was nominated for the prestigious Austin Critics Table Award in Austin, Texas, for his solo work in Robert Kyr's *A Time for Life* and won the same award for his solo performances in Samuel Barber's *The Lovers*, recorded by the Grammy®-winning professional ensemble, Conspirare, on the Harmonia Mundi label. Other acclaimed recording projects include John Michael Trotta's *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, and Robert Kyr's *Cloud of Unknowing: Songs of Soul*. He was voted as one of NPR's top picks for new recordings.

## References

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Polyphony aims to foster a thriving community of church musicians, offering them encouragement, support, and resources.

Polyphony is a community of church musicians who love choral and instrumental music and the hymns of the church.

We welcome all church musicians who aspire to excellence in worship and the arts.

Polyphony exists to nurture church musicians in order to sustain a life-long vocation. We think the art and craft of church music is best learned and practiced in community and so Polyphony is an antidote to vocational isolation.

The Polyphony network is unique because we are asking what it takes to build a sustainable vocational life as a church musician these days. We are as interested in the personal flourishing of our members as we are in professional competency and success.

