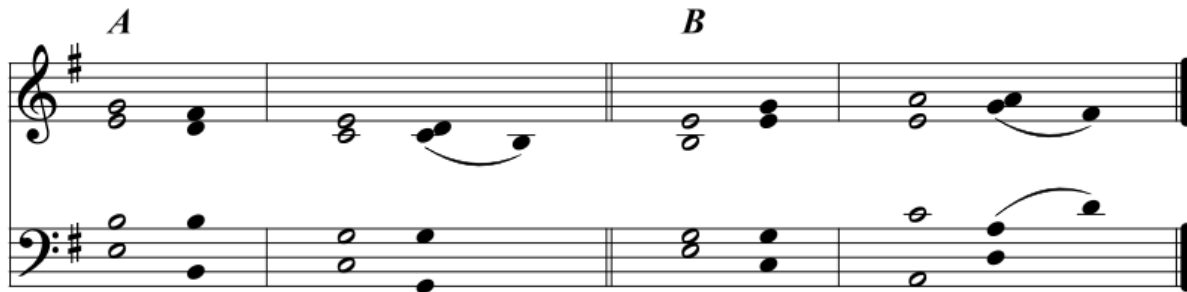


Music Notes for December 17, 2023

Today is the third Sunday of St. A's extended Advent Season in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. Listen to the Advent service music: [Presentation Hymn](#), [Sanctus](#), and [Fraction Anthem](#). This Sunday continues one of the main themes of the Advent season, the Reign of God, and is sometimes known as "Christ the King" Sunday

The Simplified Anglican Chant psalm tone is below, to which the words of Psalm 100 will be sung:



Listen to the chant for Psalm 100 [here](#).

The prelude today is an organ piece by Richard Purvis based on the opening hymn, "Of the father's love begotten," a fantasy on the tune "Divinum Mysterium." Purvis is best remembered as the Organist and Master of Choristers at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco from 1947 through 1971. He was a prolific composer and had a unique style, well-captured in the piece you will hear today. Purvis also helped to form a cathedral school for boys, ensuring the continuation of the all-male choir tradition in the U.S. While the hymn is usually thought of as a Christmas hymn, it is equally appropriate for the final Sundays of Advent when we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ. We'll omit stanza 2 today, which is particularly evocative of the Nativity story.

Today's anthem, "Creator of the stars of night," is based on the text of a Latin hymn sometimes attributed to St. Ambrose (4th century). Although the evidence for that attribution is scant, the text is nonetheless a very old one and has been used during the Advent season for many centuries. This version pairs the plainsong hymn with an interesting organ accompaniment.