

Music Notes for November 19, 2023

Today is the second 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](#).

The Simplified Anglican Chant psalm tone is below:



Listen to the chant for Psalm 123 [here](#).

The prelude today is a set of variations on the opening hymn, "Come, thou long expected Jesus," sung to the tune known as "Stuttgart." This tune first appeared in the collection *Psalmodia Sacra*, published in Gotha, Germany in 1715. It was composed by Christian Friedrich Witt (c. 1660-1716) of Altenburg. The tune appears in some 340 hymnals, most frequently sung to Advent texts. The variations were composed by Christa Rakich, currently on the faculty of Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. The postlude is a fugue based on the tune of our Advent presentation hymn, People look east, by composer Richard Shephard (1949 – 2021).

Shepard is also the composer of today's Offertory Anthem, "Eternal God." This is a stirring composition with lots of beautiful close harmonies in both the choir parts and organ accompaniment. The text is suitable for many times in the church year, and it is based on one of the prayers of St. Augustine of Hippo, our patron.