

## Music Notes for October 15, 2023

Today's Sequence Hymn, "Your hand, O Lord, has guided," is a reflection on the Gospel lesson, Matthew 22:1-14. The text affirms God's faithful hand of guidance and blessing on the church (stanza 1), a church that has continually proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom (stanza 2), and that, by God's power, will ultimately be victorious in its mission (stanza 3). Each stanza leads directly into the powerful refrain line taken from Ephesians 4:4-5: "There is one body [the church of Christ] . . . one Lord, one faith. . . ." The hymn is sung to the tune "Thornbury," composed in 1898 by Basil Harwood, an English organist and composer. Harwood was raised as a Quaker, but was to the Anglican church when he first heard the organ and choral music at a service he attended at age 8. Today's prelude is also based on this tune, in a setting composed by Charles Callahan.

The anthem, "When I can read my title clear," is a rousing setting of the Southern Harmony tune, "The Saints' Delight" with a text by Isaac Watts. Although this text doesn't appear in our Episcopal Hymnal 1982, it does appear in over 1,200 other hymnals. It is a reflection on Isaiah 25, one of the alternate readings for this Sunday. The tune was composed in 1835 by someone named "F. Price," about whom no information is available. The song appeared in a hymnal of 1913 with a very highfalutin title of "Sacred Tunes and Hymns: Containing a Special Collection of a Very High Order of Standard Sacred Tunes and Hymns Novel and Newly Arranged."

The Postlude is called "Air," and was written in 1963 by Gerre Hancock. He was the long-time music director of St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City, serving there from 1971-2004. One of his organ teachers was Jean Langlais, whose music we heard at last week's Eucharist.

The Antiphon for Psalm 106 is below and you can listen to it [here](#).



Give thanks to the Ho-ly One, for God's mer-cy en-dures for ev-er.

The service music is the same for the remainder of the season of Pentecost. Listen to the [Presentation Hymn](#), [Sanctus](#), and [Fraction Anthem](#).