

Music Notes for October 8, 2023

Today's prelude is entitled "Prière" (Prayer), the third of a collection called "Four Pieces" by Belgian organist and composer Joseph Jongen. The composer lived from 1873 – 1953 and was a prolific composer from his 20s well into his seventies. Inexplicably, he destroyed much of his own output, and the only music frequently performed today is largely from his works for organ. One of his most famous works is the monumental "Symphonie Concertante" of 1926 for organ and orchestra. The work was commissioned for the rededication of the world's largest pipe organ in the Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia (now Macy's).

The anthem "Christ is the Vine," is based on John 15:1-5, but it marries well with today's Gospel text from Matthew about the vineyard and the fruits of the kingdom. The words are by Edith Sinclair Downing and are more than a recounting of the teaching of Jesus – they also interpret the text with instruction for the Christian believer. The composer, Robert Powell (born 1932), has written over 300 compositions for organ, choir, handbells, and other instruments. He has held many significant positions including Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

The Postlude is an excerpt from "Dialogue for the Mixtures" from "Suite Breve" by French organist and composer Jean Langlais (1907 – 1991), who was blind from age two due to glaucoma. The term "mixtures" refers to the organ stops that is made up of multiple ranks of pipes that sound the upper harmonics of each note of the keyboard, adding a chord to each note played. Mixtures add volume and brilliance to the sound, and our organ at St. A's contains two mixture stops – one of three ranks in the Swell Division, an one of four ranks in the Great Division.

The Antiphon for Psalm 19 is below and you can listen to it [here](#).



The sta - tutes of God re - jice the heart.

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