

**Service Music at St. Augustine's
Extended Advent Season, 2023, Year B
November 12, 2023 – December 24 (a.m.), 2023**

Learn more about the service music we are using at St. Augustine's Church below and view some brief videos to familiarize yourself with the selections.

This year we will be trying out an extended season of Advent. For many years, Advent has traditionally been the four Sunday's preceding the Christmas season, as a preparation for Christ's birth. However, there is historical precedence for the Advent season to consist of seven Sundays, this year beginning on November 12th, focused on the Reign of God, using the Lectionary readings as they already exist. An article explaining the rationale for this extended Advent season can be found [here](#).

Our service music at St. A's will also change during this season, as follows:

Presentation Hymn ("People Look East"): This is a hymn written British writer Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Farjeon is best known in the U.S. for her hymn, "Morning Has Broken." "People Look East" first appeared in the Oxford Book of Carols in 1928, and the hymn makes use of lots of familiar Advent imagery – for example, looking to the direction of the rising sun for a new beginning, singing of the "bare earth" that awaits the coming of the Promised One, and so on. We'll sing one stanza each week, appropriate to the readings and theme for each Sunday. Listen to our Advent Presentation Hymn [here](#).

Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy Lord): This setting which appears in our hymnal "Wonder, Love, and Praise," is by William Bradley Roberts and composed in 1995. We have used it here at St. A's in the past and the piece captures a quiet, meditative feeling, suitable to this season of expectancy. Roberts is currently Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Virginia Theological Seminary and Director of Chapel Music, having retired in December 2019. Roberts was ordained in the Baptist Church in 1971. Prior to his coming to Virginia Seminary, he was an Episcopal church musician for thirty-three years, the most recent position being St. John's, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C. Listen to the Roberts Advent Sanctus [here](#).

Fraction Anthem (O Lamb of God): The Fraction Anthem this Advent uses Advent imagery to refer to Christ as "Morning Star," "Word of God," and "Emmanuel." This setting appears in our supplemental hymns, "My Heart Sings Out," designed to provide accessible, high-quality church music for children. The piece was composed by Ralph Stewart and arranged by Robert J. Batastini, the retired vice president and senior editor of GIA Publications, Inc., here in Chicago. Bob has over fifty-five years of service in pastoral music ministry, having served several parishes in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Listen to the Advent Fraction Anthem [here](#).