Service Music at St. Augustine's Season of Lent, 2024, Year B February 14, 2024 through March 29, 2024

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.

Our service music at St. A's will also change during this season. Much of the service music will be sung more simply than in other seasons, accompanied only by bells or piano. The organ will not be used again until Easter Sunday, March 31st.

First Sunday of Lent only: The Great Litany. Listen to excerpts from the Great Litany here. The composer of the setting we are using this year is Stephan Casurella, who is the Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is the seat of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, of which our former Rector Kristin White will be ordained as Bishop on February 17, 2024.

Following Sundays of Lent: The Decalogue. On the second through fifth Sunday's of Lent our service will begin with the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) being chanted. The congregation will sing a simple refrain based on the "Kyrie" from the Canadian composer Healy Willan's (1880-1968) *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*. Listen to the congregational refrain here.

Presentation Hymn ("What shall I render to you, O God"): This is a setting of word from Psalm 116 which was composed by Paul Manz in the 1970s. It is a beautiful setting and this year we are using the text as updated to be more gender-neutral. Listen to our Lent Presentation Hymn here.

Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy Lord): This appears in our hymnal as part of composer David Hurd's "New Plainsong" setting for music for the Eucharist. David was born in 1950 and is one of the preeminent Black musicians in the Episcopal Church today. Listen to the Sanctus here.

Fraction Anthem (Christ our Passover): The Fraction Anthem is a setting of "Christ our Passover" composed by Gerald Near (born 1942) and who is considered one of the finest composers to church music today. He was once the Music Director of the Roman Catholic St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC. As a side note, when I worked in Washington for many years, my office looked out over St. Matthew's. Listen to the Lent Fraction Anthem here.