

Notes on Selected Portions of Today’s Music

Processional Hymn:

my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

This stirring patriotic hymn has become increasingly popular since it was first written by an American Episcopalian minister, in 1876. Today it is included in nearly every published hymnal in this country. *God of our fathers* is the product of Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, at that time pastor of a small rural church in Brandon, Vermont. It was written to commemorate one hundredth anniversary of our country’s Declaration of Independence and was sung for the first time at Brandon’s 75th of July celebration to the music of the old, Russian national anthem. This tune, which has since become known as the “Russian Hymn” [aka. “Russia”], is used exclusively today with the hymn *God the Omnipotent!* [#523] Later, Roberts submitted this text anonymously to the committee revising the Episcopal hymnal, and it was included in their 1892 edition, along with the “Russian Hymn” tune. At the time of our national Centennial observance commemorating the adoption of the Constitution, Robert’s hymn text was chosen as the official hymn for that event. The committee commissioned the minister of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City, George William Warren, however, to compose an original tune for Robert’s text. This new tune, with its dramatic trumpet calls before each stanza, contributed much to the growing popularity of the hymn. The hymn first appeared with its new tune, the “National Hymn,” in 1894, in the official hymnal of the Episcopal Church, and Robert’s text has been used exclusively with this music to the present time.

The hymn text represents Daniel Roberts’ one claim to literary fame. Evidently, he was a very modest man. In 1901, he wrote: “I remain a country parson, known only within my own small world.” Concerning his hymn he once stated: “My little town has thus had a very flattering official recognition. But that which would really gladden my heart, popular recognition, it has not received.”

Although popular recognition for Robert’s hymn text was slow in coming, he did receive various honors before his death in Concord, New Hampshire, on October 31, 1907. He was given a Doctor of Divinity degree by Norwich University, was made a member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, as well as president of the State Normal School in Vermont, and Chaplain of the National Guard of New Hampshire. Following service in the Union Army during the Civil War and later ordination to Episcopal ministry in 1866, Roberts served parishes in Vermont and Massachusetts, and for many years he was the vicar of St. Paul’s Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

His text, with its recognition of God’s providential guidance of our nation in the past and our need for reliance on Him for the future, combined with its stirring, inspirational music, is a very usable hymn for any national celebration.

~ Adapted from *101 More Hymn Stories* © 1985 by Kenneth W. Osbeck. Published by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved; ed. C. Sayers

Offertory Anthem:

Orson Young (1919–98) was born in McPherson, Kansas, and during his lifetime was recognized as one of this country’s most brilliant organists. He was a prolific and talented composer of both organ and choral works, with many of his nearly 100 works having entered the standard repertory.

His Bachelor’s degree in music was earned at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. He later studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and received his Doctor of Sacred Music from Southwestern in 1964.

During the course of his career, he was a radio organist in Tulsa, a music critic and columnist for daily newspapers in Indiana and Pennsylvania, and choirmaster in churches in Philadelphia and Kansas City. Dr. Young taught organ in conjunction with Wayne State University and for 15 years was organist and choir director at First Presbyterian Church in Detroit. He was also very close to Fr. Tom, Dr. Lewis, and St. John’s.

~ Tritone Press & Tenuto Publications; ed. C. Sayers



Giving QR

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The Rev. Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC, *Rector*
The Rev. Canon Michael J. Bedford, SSC, *Assisting Priest Emeritus*
Dr. Huw R. Lewis, FRCO, *Director of Music, Organist, and Master of the Choir*
Ms. Chanmi Kim, MMus, *Edwards Organ Scholar*



St. John’s Church

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Ten O’clock in the Morning

INDEPENDENCE DAY

WITH COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Order for Holy Communion

- *A warm welcome to all parishioners, guests, and visitors. Worship at St. John’s is according to the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal, 1940. Be sure to ask a neighbor for help if you have any questions about where we are during the service.*
- *The ✠ symbol indicates a point in the liturgy where making the sign of the cross is appropriate.*
- ***Please turn all cell phones, pagers, and wireless communication devices off or to “vibrate.”***
- *Children are most welcome at St. John’s worship services. For those who desire it, during the school year, Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM, and nursery care is available year-round.*
- *Information on worship practices, Communion procedure, announcements, prayer requests, the teaching series, a brief history of St. John’s, and various aspects of parish life are available in the Parish Chronicle, which is inserted in this bulletin.*

Bulletin

Prayer Book

The Prelude: *Melody* – Horatio Parker

- 143 The Processional Hymn: *God of our fathers, whose almighty hand* – TUNE: National Hymn
- 142 *The National Anthem* (complete)

The Introit: *Salus populi*, Anonymous; Psalm 78:1 – Plainchant

I AM the salvation of my people, saith the LORD: in whatsoever tribulation they shall call upon me, I will hear them, and I will be their LORD for ever. Ps. Hear my law, O my people: incline your ears unto the words of my mouth. Glory be... I am the salvation... (etc)

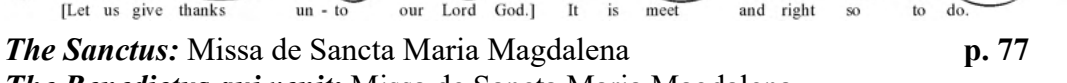
The Collect for Purity (the People all kneeling) p. 67

- 708 The Decalogue; Responses: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena – Healey Willan p. 68–9
- The Summary of the Law p. 69

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The Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity p. 195

<u>mnal</u>	<u>Prayer Book</u>
For the Epistle: Deuteronomy x. 17.	p. 263
<i>After the reading of the Epistle, the People shall remain seated, and the Choir shall chant</i>	
The Psalm: 145:1–9. <i>Exaltabo te, Deus.</i> – ANGLICAN CHANT: T. Hanforth	p. 520–1
<i>After the Psalm, the People shall stand, and the Choir continue with</i>	
The Gradual: <i>Salvasti</i> , Psalm 44:7, 8 – Plainchant	
IT is thou that savest us from our enemies, and puttest them to confusion that hate us. <i>V.</i> We make our boast of God all day long, and will praise thy Name for ever.	
The Alleluia: <i>Propitius esto</i> , Psalm 79:9, 10 – Plainchant	
ALLELUIA. Alleluia. <i>V.</i> Be merciful, O Lord, unto our sins: wherefore do the heathen say, Where is now their God? Alleluia.	
The Gospel: St. Matthew v. 43.	p. 264
The Nicene Creed	p. 71
148 The Sermon Hymn: <i>O God, beneath thy guiding hand</i> – TUNE: Duke Street	
Announcements (<i>if there be any</i>)	
The Sermon – The Rev. Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC, <i>Rector</i>	
The Offertory: <i>Si ambulavero</i> , Psalm 138:7 – Plainchant	
THOUGH I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me, O Lord; thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.	
The Offertory Anthem: <i>Now let us all praise God and sing</i> – Gordon Young	
Now let us all praise God and sing Our great Redeemer’s praise; That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia! All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever, Sing Jehovah’s mighty power, Praise Him forever. Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever. So let us all praise God and sing...	
The Presentation of the Alms and Oblations	
139 The Doxology	
PRAISE God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
141 My country, ’tis of thee (<i>4th stanza only</i>)	
OUR fathers’ God, to thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing; Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light; Protect us by thy might, Great God, our King. Amen.	
The Prayer for the Church	p. 74–5
The Invitation to Confession	p. 75
The Confession and Absolution	p. 75–6
The Comfortable Words	p. 76

<u>mnal</u>	<u>Prayer Book</u>
	
734] The Sursum corda: Plainchant	p. 76
	
	
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797 ✕ The Benedictus qui venit: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena	
The Prayer of Consecration	p. 80–1
The Lord’s Prayer	p. 82
The Prayer of Humble Access (<i>said by the Congregation with the Minister</i>)	p. 82
712 The Agnus Dei: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena (<i>to be sung thus: Men only, Trebles only, Full</i>)	
The Invitation	
<i>Priest.</i> ✕ Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that takest away the sins of the world.	
<i>Answer.</i> Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.	
The Administration of Holy Communion (<i>distributed at the rail, Host only</i>)	p. 82–3
504 The Communion Hymn: <i>Our Father, by whose Name</i> – TUNE: Rhosymedre	
The Communion: <i>Memento verbi</i> , Psalm 119:49, 50 – Plainchant	
O THINK upon thy servant as concerning thy word, O Lord, wherein thou hast caused me to put my trust: the same is my comfort in my trouble.	
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The Dismissal	
<i>Priest.</i> Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.	
<i>Answer.</i> Thanks be to God.	
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The Postlude: <i>Toccata for America</i> - Brenda Portman	



We welcome you to St. John’s Church. If you are new, please be sure to fill out a visitor card and place it in an offertory plate, and/or sign one of the guest registers in the narthex at the back of the church. We are glad you are here and hope that you will join us for fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft below the nave (general seating area) of the church. If you have questions, please feel free to speak to any parishioner and they will happily provide you with whatever assistance you may require.