

2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

A

FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC

First Presbyterian Church
512 Third Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55902
(507) 282-1618

It is a special pleasure and an honor to host Bruce Neswick here at First Presbyterian this season. We had tried scheduling his residency twice before only to be foiled by the ups and downs of Pandemic-tide. Finally, Bruce has been with us to rehearse and reminisce, and I'm so glad to be able to share his brilliance as an organist, choir trainer, and all around churchman with this community. I am lucky to have studied with Bruce at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music as a graduate student, and we first met when I attended the Yale Organ Week as an undergraduate. I'm so grateful for the model church musician he is, and for all the wonderful gifts he's given me that have affected my daily ministry work for a long time now.

We are nearing the close of this 33rd season of the beloved *A Festival of Music* Concert Series. I am extremely grateful to many helping hands – Bev Lewis, Janine Yanisch, Marilyn Theismann, Sarah Stender, and countless others have given much time, heart, and effort to our deliciously hospitable receptions. Cindy Kunzman is wonderful to work with as our diligent in-house publisher for all bulletins and programs. And I thank everyone within the FPC community and without for your ardent support of this great tradition.

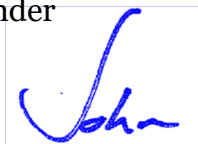
We still have one celebration left on Sunday, May 12 – the second annual Rochester Community Music Showcase concert. Our community is rife with superb, experienced musical and artistic talent. We are blessed with the opportunity to give small and large ensembles a chance to stand out and perform. This will be a surpassingly rich program including the Resounding Voices Chorus, as well as the Zumbro Woodwind Quintet and sought after hornist Ronald Beitel accompanied by our own Sarah Stender. Come support your neighbors and friends!

I warmly invite our generous donors to consider continuing your financial support of this ministry of outreach. Like every arts organization you've been hearing from lately, FOM would benefit from your considering jumping up into the next giving category if that's a possibility! We would also benefit greatly from your help in spreading the news about our offerings and helping us to welcome new and numerous friends to join us.

Please make certain you leave us with updated contact information so that we can be sure to connect and share exciting information about the 2024-2025 season with you over the next few weeks! The season promises continued diversity, variety, and music making of the highest quality, as always.

Welcome Bruce Neswick! Thank you all for singing with us today and helping to lift the roof off a smidge.

John Stender

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Hymn Festival with Bruce Neswick
This Joyful Eastertide:
Readings and Music for Spring

First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN
April 21, 2024; 4 p.m.

PRELUDE

VRUECHTEN

William Krape

WELCOME

◆ **ENTRANCE HYMN 244**

“This Joyful Eastertide”

VRUECHTEN

Introduction / improvisation

Stanza 1 / all, in parts

Stanza 2 / all, in parts

Stanza 3 / all, in unison

◆ **BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, the Apostle Paul admonished the community at Ephesus to "sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God..., in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." And so the Church, down through the ages, has sung the praises of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in response to those saving acts by which the whole human family has been made one.

Let us, through Word and Creed, and in words and tunes, remember the story of our faith and the promise of the Resurrection. And, lest we forget, let us pray for those who have little reason to sing: for those who hunger and thirst, for those who are in prison or oppressed, for those who are lonely, afraid, or in need of any kind. And let us pray for ourselves, for peace in the world, for the Church in this place and everywhere; and, so that we may join with those who in every age have lifted their voice in song, let us pray:

**Our father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

◆ **GRACE**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

◆ The congregation is invited to stand

THE EMPTY TOMB

LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

ANTHEM

“Rise to Sing! The Light is Breaking”

Eric Nelson

Rise to sing! The light is breaking, gleaming gift of day begun.
Hope now springs, like blossoms waking opening to the rising sun.
Those who sow in pain and sorrow with the dawn in joy shall reap.
God who governs each tomorrow wipes all tears from those who weep.
Lovely shine the courts of heaven; morning stars now brightly burn,
Christ arises like the leaven festal bread for hearts that yearn.
Death is swallowed up in victory. Where is now your sting, O grave?
Earth, awake to radiant mystery: Christ shall come again to save!
Hail the dawn of new creation! Gone are suffering, grief, and sighs.
Glorious now the consummation. Music soars to fill the skies.
Organs piping, church bells ringing, on this day all earth shall ring.
In the grace of God's good timing, with the saints, we rise to sing!
Rise to sing! The light is breaking, arise, rise to sing!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle

READING

Easter

George Herbert

Rise heart: thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name,
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

I got me flowers to strew thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The sunne arising in the East,
 Though he give light, & th'East perfume;
 If they should offer to contest
 With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
 Though many sunnes to shine endeavour?
 We count three hundred, but we misse:
 There is but one, and that one ever.

HYMN

"Christ the Lord is risen again!"

CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN

text: Michael Weisse, tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.; music: Geistliche Lieder, 1533
 organ settings by J.S. Bach

1. Christ the Lord is risen a - gain! Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain!
organ He who gave for us his life, who for us en - dured the strife,
 3. He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up - on the cross

Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
takes our sin and guilt a - way that with an - gels we may say:
 is ex - alt - ed now to save, wrest - ing vic - t'ry from the grave.

Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu - ia! Christ, our Pas - chal lamb in - deed,

Christ, to - day your peo - ple feed. Al - le - lu - ia! *(2nd stanza: organ alone)*

THE APOSTOLIC TESTIMONY

LESSON

John 20:19-31

ANTHEM

Ascension Alleluia

Michael Sitton

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
 death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

I will not leave you as orphans, alleluia, I will come to you, alleluia.

Text: Romans 6:9, John 14:18

READING

Thomas

Christopher Villiers

What is this madness? Women's gossip wild,
 Swirling in the gutters of our heartache,
 He is dead. Let Him rest in peace, the child,
 Picking up the pieces of His sweet mistake.
 He would not learn the world's ways, would not fight
 With its weapons, He could not save Himself
 Who wished to save the world, I know right
 He could not save it. I saved myself.
 Of course you saw Him, grief distorts the eyes,
 The waking nightmare built upon our guilt,
 Gives false consolation, I feel those lies,
 But not the wounded body's spear-hole's tilt.

And who might You be? Ah, now I believe,
 My Lord and God! How could my heart deceive?

◆ **HYMN 256**

"These Things Did Thomas Count as Real"

KEDRON

*Introduction / improvisation**Stanza 1 / all**Stanza 2 / upper voices**Stanza 3 / all**Stanza 4 / lower voices**Stanza 5 / all***CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD****LESSON**

John 10:11-18

ANTHEM

"Loving Shepherd"

Bob Chilcott

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
 nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand.

I would bless thee every day, gladly all thy will obey,
 like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
 suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below,
 till before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.

Text: Jane E. Leeson (1807-1882)

READING

The Good Shepherd

Stanley Moss

Because he would not abandon the flock for a lost sheep
 after the others had bedded down for the night,
 he turned back, searched the thickets and gullies.
 Sleepless, while the flock dozed in the morning mist
 he searched the pastures up ahead. Winter nearing,
 our wool heavy with brambles, ropes of muddy ice,
 he did not abandon the lost sheep, even when the snows came.

Still, I knew there was only a thin line
 between the good shepherd and the butcher.
 How many lambs had put their heads between the shepherd's knees,
 closed their eyes, offering their neck to the knife?
 Familiar – the quick thuds of the club doing its work.
 More than once at night I saw the halo coming.
 I ran like a deer and hid among rocks,
 or I crawled under a bush, my heart in thorns.

During the day I lived my life in clover
 watching out for the halo.
 I swore on the day the good shepherd catches hold,
 trying to wrestle me to the ground and bind my feet,
 I will buck like a ram and bite like a wolf,
 although I taste the famous blood
 I will break loose! I will race under the gates of heaven,
 back to the mortal fields, my flock, my stubbled grass and mud.

◆ HYMN

“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

BURNS

text: James Montgomery; music: Bruce Neswick

All: Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless
 Upper voices: We would not live by bread a - lone,
 Lower voices: Be known to us in break - ing bread,
 All: Lord, sup with us in love di - vine,
 thy cho - sen pil - grim flock
 but by thy and thy blood,
 and do not then de - part;
 thy bo - dy and thy blood,
 with man - na in the wil - der - ness,
 in strength of which we trav - el on
 Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread
 that liv - ing bread, that heav'n - ly wine,
 with wa - ter from the rock.
 to our a - bid - ing place.
 thy ta - ble in our heart.
 be our im - mor - tal food.

A NEW PATTERN OF LIFE

LESSON

1st John 4:7-21

ANTHEM

“Greater Love Hath No Man”

John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it:
for love is strong as death;
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:
but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified,
but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,
ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation,
that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light;
I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Text: Song of Solomon 8:7,6; John 15:13; 1 Peter 2:24;
1st Corinthians 6:11; 1st Peter 2:9; Romans 12:1

READING

September 1, 1939

W.H. Auden

I sit in one of the dives
On Fifty-second Street
Uncertain and afraid
As the clever hopes expire
Of a low dishonest decade:
Waves of anger and fear
Circulate over the bright
And darkened lands of the earth,
Obsessing our private lives;
The unmentionable odour of death
Offends the September night.

Accurate scholarship can
Unearth the whole offence
From Luther until now
That has driven a culture mad,
Find what occurred at Linz,
What huge imago made
A psychopathic god:
I and the public know
What all schoolchildren learn,
Those to whom evil is done
Do evil in return.

Exiled Thucydides knew
All that a speech can say
About Democracy,
And what dictators do,
The elderly rubbish they talk
To an apathetic grave;
Analysed all in his book,
The enlightenment driven away,
The habit-forming pain,
Mismanagement and grief:
We must suffer them all again.

Into this neutral air
Where blind skyscrapers use
Their full height to proclaim
The strength of Collective Man,
Each language pours its vain
Competitive excuse: But who can live for
long
In an euphoric dream;
Out of the mirror they stare,
Imperialism's face
And the international wrong.

Faces along the bar
Cling to their average day:
The lights must never go out,
The music must always play,
All the conventions conspire
To make this fort assume
The furniture of home;
Lest we should see where we are,
Lost in a haunted wood,
Children afraid of the night
Who have never been happy or good.

The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.

From the conservative dark
Into the ethical life
The dense commuters come,
Repeating their morning vow;
"I will be true to the wife,
I'll concentrate more on my work,"
And helpless governors wake
To resume their compulsory game:
Who can release them now,
Who can reach the deaf,
Who can speak for the dumb?

All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.

Defenseless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.

◆ HYMN

“O thou who camest from above”

HEREFORD

text: Charles Wesley; music: Samuel S. Wesley

Unison O thou who cam - est from a - bove the fire ce -
 Harmony There let it for thy glo - ry burn with ev - er
 Harmony Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire to work, and
 Unison Still let me prove thy per - fect will, my acts of
 les - tial to im - part, kin - dle a flame of
 bright, un - dy - ing blaze, and trem - bling to its
 speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the
 faith and love re - peat, till death thy end - less
 sa - cred love up - on the al - tar of my heart.
 source re - turn in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise.
 ho - ly fire and still stir up the gift in me.
 mer - cies seal, and make the sac - ri - fice com - plete. —

descant: David Boeckh

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

ANTHEM

“O Clap Your Hands”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
 For the Lord most high is terrible: He is a great King over all the earth.
 God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises unto our King, sing praises;
 For God is King of all the earth; sing ye praises everyone that hath understanding.
 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.
 Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

Text: Psalm 47:1-8

READING

Ascension Day

Christina Rossetti

When Christ went up to Heaven the Apostles stayed,
Gazing at Heaven with souls and wills on fire,
Their hearts on flight along the track He made,
Winged by desire.

Their silence spake: "Lord, why not follow Thee?
Home is not home without Thy Blessed Face,
Life is not life. Remember, Lord, and see,
Look back, embrace.

"Earth is one desert waste of banishment,
Life is one long-drawn anguish of decay.
Where Thou wert wont to go we also went:
Why not today?"

Nevertheless a cloud cut off their gaze:
They tarry to build up Jerusalem,
Watching for Him, while thro' the appointed days
He watches them.

They do His Will, and doing it rejoice,
Patiently glad to spend and to be spent:
Still He speaks to them, still they hear His Voice
And are content.

For as a cloud received Him from their sight,
So with a cloud will He return ere long:
Therefore they stand on guard by day, by night,
Strenuous and strong.

They do, they dare, they beyond seven times seven
Forgive, they cry God's mighty word aloud:
Yet sometimes haply lift tired eyes to Heaven—
"Is that His cloud?"

◆ **HYMN 258**

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

DEO GRACIAS

*Introduction / improvisation**Stanza 1 / all, unison**Stanza 2 / all, parts**Stanza 3 / choir alone**Stanza 4 / all, parts**Stanza 5 / all, unison*

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON

Genesis 11:1-9

ANTHEM

“If Ye Love Me”

Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
and He shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth.
And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

Text: John 14:15-18

READING

The dove descending (from *Little Gidding*)

T.S. Eliot

...The dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror
Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre of pyre-
To be redeemed from fire by fire.

Who then devised the torment? Love.
Love is the unfamiliar Name
Behind the hands that wove
The intolerable shirt of flame
Which human power cannot remove.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire...

HYMN

“Come, thou Holy Spirit, bright”

PALM BEACH

text: 12th c. Latin, tr. Charles P. Price; music and organ settings: Gerre Hancock

descant: Bruce Neswick

All: Come, thou Ho - ly Spi - rit bright; come with thy ce - les - tial light;
Upper Voices: Thou, of com - fort - ers the best, thou, the soul's most wel - come guest,
All: Bright - er than the noon - day sun, fill our lives which Christ has won;
Lower Voices: Bend the stub - born heart and will; melt the fro - zen, warm the chill;
All: To thy peo - ple who a - dore and con - fess thee ev - er - more,
pour on us thy love— di - vine. Come, pro - tec - tor
of our peace thou art— the sign. In our la - bor,
fill our hearts and make them thine. Where thou art not,
rule us by thy judg - ment's line. Cleanse us with thy
thy blest seven - fold gift— as - sign. Grant us thy sal -
of the poor; come, thou source of bless - ings sure;
be our aid; in our sum - mer, cool - ing shade.
we have nought: all our word and deed and thought
heal - ing power; what is bar - ren bring to flower;
va - tion, Lord, bound - less mer - cy our re - ward,
come with - in our hearts to shine.
Ev - ery bit - ter tear re - fine. (interludes
twist - ed from thy true de - sign. follow
to thy love our sins con - sign. each stanza)
joys which earth and heaven en - twine.

FINAL PRAYER

Mighty and gracious God, you are our strength and our song. We are constantly surrounded by your gifts and touched by your grace; our words and the music of our praise do not approach the wonders of your love. Send forth your Spirit and ignite our hearts with joy, that our lives may be refreshed and the earth may be renewed, until the new heaven and new earth resound with the song of resurrection in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

◆ HYMN 239

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Introduction / organ setting by Healey Willan

Stanza 1 / all in parts

Stanza 2 / upper voices only

Stanza 3 / lower voices only

Interlude / organ improvisation

Stanza 4 / all in parts

POSTLUDE

Paeon

Herbert Howells



Bruce Neswick is the Assisting Musician at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in La Jolla, CA, a position to which he was appointed in summer 2022. Prior to moving to California, he served as the Canon for Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR, Associate Professor of Music in Organ at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and Assistant Organist of St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, Louisville, KY. He has also served as the Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and as Canon for Music at the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta.

Active in the field of church music, Mr. Neswick holds the Fellowship degree from the Royal School of Church Music, for whom he has conducted several courses for boy and girl choristers. He has served on the faculties of and performed for several church music conferences, including Master

Schola, the Mississippi Conference, the Association of Anglican Musicians, Westminster Choir College Summer Session, the Montreat and Westminster Conferences of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Disciples of Christ Musicians Association, the Conference of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Sewanee Church Music Conference, Organ Alive!, the Shenandoah Conservatory Church Music Institute, and the Evergreen Conference. In recent years, he has performed at St. Florian Abbey, in Austria, as part of the annual BrucknerFest; at the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative conference; and at the Yale Organ Week.

Mr. Neswick has been commissioned to compose for dozens of performers and churches throughout the United States, and his organ and choral music is published by Paraclete, Augsburg-Fortress, Selah, Vivace, Hope, Plymouth, and St. James Press. Mr. Neswick's skill at improvisation garnered him three first prizes from the 1989 San Anselmo Organ Festival; the 1990 American Guild of Organists' national convention in Boston; and the 1992 Rochette Concours at the Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland.

A graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and of the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, Mr. Neswick's teachers have included Robert Baker, David Dahl, Gerre Hancock, Margaret Irwin-Brandon and Lionel Rogg. A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Neswick has served the Guild in many capacities, including chapter dean, regional convention chair, regional education coordinator, member of the national nominating committee, and member of the national improvisation competition committee. Mr. Neswick was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2016 from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

As a recitalist, Mr. Neswick has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe and has been a frequent performer at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. In 1994, he played the opening convocation for the national AGO convention held in Dallas, Texas, and he was a featured artist and clinician at the national AGO conventions in Seattle (in 2000 and 2022), Washington, DC (in 2010) and Boston (in 2014).

Bruce Neswick is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

Join us for the final concert of the season!
For more information, visit: fpcrochester.org/festival-of-music

Rochester Community Music Showcase

featuring *Resounding Voices Chorus, the Zumbro Lutheran Woodwind Quintet,*
and hornist Ronald Beitel with Sarah Stender, accompanist
May 12, 2024

Music / Arts / Drama Camp—July 8-12, 9am—noon

Open to youth age 5 and older.

To Register, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/fpcMADform>

This fun-filled week of creativity and togetherness is an outreach of First Presbyterian Church. It's not vacation Bible school - it's an arts camp, and an open door to all! Last year we had nearly 30 participants, and we hope to see continued growth that matches the wonderful support that has blossomed!

We try to get our feet wet in many musical ways, from singing in camp choir to hearing live performance and ringing handbells! We have lots of time to work on various crafts and other creative take-home projects - however our spirited inspiration leads us. We'll work up some brief dramatic presentations and edit some short videos - slow-mo and otherwise! This year instead of designing a custom t-shirt, everyone will get to paint their own pair of canvas shoes to flaunt! Oh, and don't forget SNACK TIME!

Questions or need more information? Don't hesitate to reach out!

John Stender - stender.john@fpcrochester.org; 507-721-8454 (cell); 507-282-1618 (office)

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