

Music for 5-20-18

News and Notes:

This Sunday we celebrate the Holy Spirit with baptisms, doves, and liturgy from the New Zealand Prayer Book. We will sing "Hail thee festival day," "Come down, O love divine," and more. The choir anthem will be a resetting of the text "Come down, O love divine" by Roland Martin. For those of you that remember our Assistant Rector Elton, Roland Martin was his music director at the cathedral in Buffalo NY. The chant "Veni Creator Spiritus" has been around since the 9th century and associated with Pentecost and other festivals of the Spirit. See if you can identify the tune and where it used throughout the service. First one to identify all the places and tell me wins a prize!

Sunday Bulletin:

"Veni Creator Spiritus" (Come Creator Spirit) is often associated with Pentecost Sunday, the Feast Day of the Holy Spirit. Liturgically however, relative to Pentecost it is used at Terce and Vespers. The actual sequence hymn for use at a Roman Rite Mass on Pentecost is Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit). Since everyone loves a good tune, "Veni Creator" has become the more well-known Pentecost plainchant. Just where the tune originated is a bit murky. There are claims that it appeared with the original Ambrosian text in a Milanese source. However the tune does not really share characteristics of an Ambrosian melody. It probably originated in the 9th century and is often attributed to Rabanus Maurus. It is probably one of the more familiar plainchants to Anglicans and it is used often at ordinations and has been used at every English coronation since Edward II in 1307. With only one exception, this is the only tune associated with the text "Veni Creator Spiritus." The 9th century text that is used in our hymnal first appeared in the 1968 in the hymnal for the Anglican Church of Canada. The translation strove to express Christian faith in the language of the 20th century since the piety of our time is not the piety of the 9th century as stated by our hymnal's companion. Along the way through the centuries as text and tune were adapted to suit the times, the Lutherans converted the chant in to a metered hymn tune, "Komm, Gott, Schöpfer," which served as the basis for two Bach organ compositions.