

Music Blurbs for 6-17-18

News & Notes:

This week we'll sing "Come, ye thankful people, come," "Seek ye first," and "Rejoice, the Lord is King!" Starting off our summer music, our offertory will be the Brahms "Intermezzo."

The following Sunday our special music will be Mozart Church Sonatas played by Russian born violinist Semyon Ziskind and Wayman McCoy. These works being written in Salzburg were composed when Mozart was young. In fact, the ones we are playing at communion and for the postlude were written when he was 16 years old.

Bulletin:

The agricultural metaphors in today's Gospel led us to pick the perennial Thanksgiving hymn "Come, ye thankful people, come." Henry Alford wrote the text in 1844 while rector of a church in Buckinghamshire, England. The original seven verses were written for a harvest celebration. At that time, these were major events that took place at a time closer to harvest than our present day Thanksgiving. With overland transportation still poor, a local crop failure could spell a winter of misery. Alford made several revisions over the years and reduced the number of verses to three. In 1861 it was included in the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, although with revisions that were without his agreement and when he published *Poetical Works* he expressed his umbrage at *HA&M* in a footnote.

The tune was composed by Sir George Elvey and first appeared in an 1858 collection of psalm tunes and hymns to a different text. Then the editors of the first edition of *HA&M* put Alford's text with this tune. Elvey named it ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, after the chapel where he served as organist for 47 years. Which leads us to today's trivia: St. George's Windsor along with a handful of churches (like Westminster Abbey) is in a category called Royal Peculiar. They are "peculiar" because their clergy are not answerable to the bishop of the diocese in which the church is located. In this case, the clergy of these churches answer directly to the monarch. In times past, peculiars might be answerable to bishops different from the one whose diocese they were actually in. Parliament abolished this hodgepodge in the 19th century but the Royal Peculiars remained.