

Music Blurbs for 9-30-18

News & Notes

This week, as a reminder that our St. Francis Blessing of the Animals service is coming up (October 6), cellist David Chentian will play "The Swan" from Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*. Hymns will include "All hail the power of Jesus' Name!" "Be thou my vision," and "Standing in the need of prayer." The choir will sing "Plenty Good Room" by local composer John Horman.

Sunday Bulletins

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! ranks as one of the most popular hymns among congregations in the Episcopal Church. To be sure, its popularity extends beyond that to many denominations. The first stanza appeared anonymously in the November 1779 issue of *Gospel Magazine* coupled with the tune MILES LANE (451). In the April 1780 issue of the same magazine, they published a complete eight-verse version and the text was attributed to Edward Perronet (1726-1792). He was born in Kent, England, the son of an Anglican preacher who was closely associated with John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism. The Perronets were descended from French Huguenots who had fled France to escape religious persecution. While Edward was considered a good preacher, he felt uncomfortable preaching in front of the formidable likes of John Wesley, who had asked him to preach several times. One day, John Wesley got up and declared that the congregation would now hear a sermon from Edward Perronet. Perronet got up to the pulpit and declared he would deliver the greatest sermon ever preached. He read "The Sermon on the Mount" and sat down. His relation with the Wesleys soured after that. The final straw was his scathing attack on the Anglican notion that Eucharist could only be administered by Anglican priests. The Wesleys, Anglican to the end, broke all ties, and of course so did the Anglican Church. He then became the minister of an independent church.

Over the years Perronet's text underwent many alterations. The 1874 revision is what the editors used for our present hymnal, but even then changes were made.

The tune CORONATION was composed by Oliver Holden (1765-1844) of Charleston, Massachusetts. He was a Baptist pastor, carpenter, real estate dealer, and legislator, as well as a musician. This most famous of all 18th century American tunes was first published in *Union Harmony* (Boston, 1793) and coupled with Perronet's text. It immediately began appearing in many musical publications of the day and by the 1830s found its way into major denominational hymnals such as those of the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists. However it wasn't until *The Hymnal 1916* that it found a permanent place in the hymnals of the Episcopal Church.