

Blurb for 6-16-19 Trinity Sunday

This week at 10:30, for our celebration of the Holy Trinity, violinist Semyon Ziskind and cellist TBD will join our music director Newton Lewis playing the Mozart Piano Trio in C as well as the opening of the Trio Divertimento in B Flat. We will sing "Holy God, we praise your Name," "I bind unto myself today," and of course "Holy, holy, holy!"

Holy God, we praise your Name

For this week's Song of Praise we are using a popular version of the ancient Ambrosian hymn "Te Deum laudamus" (We praise you God). Tradition has it that the text was written by Ambrose and Augustine on the occasion of the latter's baptism in 387 AD. It now seems to be attributed to Nicetus, a fourth century bishop of Remesiana. [In the Church of England the "Te Deum" was often used as the first canticle at Morning Prayer.] This version from our hymnal is a translation of a versified German version for the *Katholisches Gesangbuch* (Catholic Songbook) of 1774 published in Vienna at the request of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa (Grösser Gott, wir loben dich). In order to give a complete version of the entire original "Te Deum" the committee compiling our present hymnal asked Bland Tucker, who was the chair of the Text Committee to complete the paraphrase. He added verses 5, 6, and 7, in which he strove to maintain the character of the original paraphrase. The original tune (GROSSER GOTT) in the empress' songbook was more folk-like in character but it has remained a well-known hymn in Roman Catholic churches over the last few centuries and subsequently taken on by mainline Protestant hymnals. I noticed, while watching a YouTube video of a Mass at St. Stephen's in Vienna, pretty much the entire congregation singing this from memory.