

Music Blurbs for 9-29-19

News and Notes

This week we'll sing "Ye holy angels bright" (it is close to St. Michael and All Angels!) and "When the poor ones." The choir will sing "Give Alms of Thy Goods" by English Renaissance composer Christopher Tye. Cellist extraordinaire David Chentian joins us. To get into the spirit of our blessing of the animals, he will play "The Swan" by Camille Saint-Saens. People loved it so much from last summer, we're going to play "Libertango" again. If you missed it then, here's your chance!

Sunday Bulletins

Today's hymn "When the poor ones who have nothing" (Cuando el pobre nada tiene) is a collaboration by two Spanish priests: Miguel Manzano and Jose Antonio Olivar. This 1971 hymn comes out of the post Vatican II period when the Roman Catholic Church began exploring congregational singing in vernacular languages.

It is also an expression of liberation theology that was also coming to prominence in Latin America at the same time. Carlton Young, editor of the United Methodist Hymnal explains, "The central teaching is the classic liberation motif that God in Christ is seen and experienced in the plight of the rejected of society: the homeless, the poor, and the parentless." Typical of liberation theology, the refrain views life as a journey with God as our companion. "In life's journey, we are closer to God when we share from our abundance of food, clothing, and shelter. Those who choose the alternative—greed, hate, and war—will 'go away into eternal punishment'" (Matthew 25:46a).

Pablo Sosa, an Argentinian pastor and church musician in discussing this song states, "The stanzas express beautifully the strange paradox of the poor ones giving away to others, the thirsty sharing water with us, and the weak strengthening the weaker. The refrain states clearly that when that happens 'God walks on our own way'. When the poor one announces to the other poor one the hope God has given us, then God's kingdom is born among us. In other words, it is from within the poor, the weak, the oppressed, that God's salvation will come."