



# Abendmusik

DIR MICHAEL MURRAY

## ADVENT VESPERS

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 7:30 p.m., Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford  
Sunday, December 7, 2025, 7:30 p.m., St. Philip's Anglican Church, Vancouver

**Thank you for leaving your offering in a basket at the back of the church.**

If you wish to have a **receipt for your donation** for tax purposes, please ensure that either your cheque or offering envelope has your full name and address with postal code.


If you wish to receive your **receipt by e-mail**, please include your email address on your envelope (your home address is also required).

Offering cheques can be made payable to

**Menno Hall**

To receive the choir's mailings or emails, please visit: <http://pcda.bc.ca/avc-choir/contact/>

# Letter from our President

ax House at Menno Hall is under construction to carry forward the legacy of the Menno Simons Centre into a new chapter. At its core, Pax House is an intentional Christian community rooted in an Anabaptist way of seeing the world – things like humility, hospitality, shared life, and taking faith and learning seriously. But it's also a community where students are encouraged to think freely, ask honest questions, and listen well to one another. That spirit of dialogue – even disagreement – is something we see as part of our faith, not a threat to it.

Students don't need to belong to a particular denomination or even come with a fully formed faith. What matters is that they want to live in a place where people treat each other with charity, where questions are welcome, and where everyone tries to assume goodwill in one another. It's a home for students who want to take their studies seriously, take community seriously, and take the big questions of life seriously, too.

Pax House is now accepting applications for student residents to move in September 5, 2026. Applications will be accepted through January 28th. Learn more and apply at [paxhouse.ca](http://paxhouse.ca).

If someone in your life is heading to UBC or Regent College next fall – maybe a young person in your family, or someone in your youth group – and they'd thrive in this kind of environment, we'd love for you to pass along the news. Space is limited, so encourage them to apply early!

– Kevin Hiebert, President, on behalf of the PCDA Board of Directors



## Choir's Preparatory Prayer

Director In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

O God, whose saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, be ever present with your servants who seek, through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth, and grant to them even now, a glimpse of your beauty, and make them worthy to behold Thee forevermore. **AMEN.**

Byzantine Rite, prayer said before singing

# Advent Choral Vespers

A video recording of the Advent Vespers at St Philip's will soon be available at:  
<https://pcda.bc.ca/video/choir.htm>

## ***Conditor Alme Siderum***

(9<sup>th</sup> century Sarum Rite, England)

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesus, redeemer of us all,  
Hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry  
Of all creation doom'd to die,  
Didst save our lost and guilty race  
By healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

When earth was near its evening hour,  
Thou didst in love's redeeming power,

## **Anon., Sarum plainsong**

arr. Michael Murray (2013)

Like bridegroom from his chamber come  
Forth from a maiden mother's womb.

At thy great name exalted now,  
All knees in lowly homage bow;  
All things in heav'n and earth adore,  
And own thee king for evermore.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three-in-One,  
Praise, honour, might and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

## **Matin Responsory**

Cantor	I look from afar:
1 <sup>st</sup> soloist	and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Cantor	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir	Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
2 <sup>nd</sup> soloist	High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Choir	go ye out to meet him and say:
3 <sup>rd</sup> soloist	Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Choir	tell us, art thou he that should come?
Women	Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
Choir	to reign over thy people Israel.
Cantor	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.  
Men Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Choir Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

First Responsory in Matins for Advent Sunday, early mediæval Roman Rite;  
music adapted from a Magnificat by Palestrina (1525-1594), arr. Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

## Responsive Readings

One The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

**All No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

One Lord, you've been kind to your land;  
you've changed Jacob's circumstances for the better.

**All You've forgiven your people's wrongdoing;  
you've covered all their sins.**

One You've stopped being furious;  
you've turned away from your burning anger.

**All You, the God who can save us, restore us!  
Stop being angry with us!**

One Will you be mad at us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger from one generation to the next?  
Won't you bring us back to life again  
so that your people can rejoice in you?

**All Show us your faithful love, Lord!  
Give us your salvation!**

One Let me hear what the Lord God says,  
because he speaks peace to his people and to his faithful ones.

**All Don't let them return to foolish ways.  
God's salvation is very close to those who honor him  
so that his glory can live in our land.**

One Faithful love and truth have met;  
righteousness and peace have kissed.

**All Truth springs up from the ground;  
righteousness gazes down from heaven.**

One Yes, the Lord gives what is good,  
and our land yields its produce.

**All Righteousness walks before God,  
making a road for his steps.**

Psalms 85

One Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,  
and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your  
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;

**All That in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge  
both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Collect, Advent 1, The Book of Common Prayer*

## Advent Hymn

*Please stand for the hymn, and then be seated.*

*Verses 1-4 in harmony; verse 5 in unison*

Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer; Tune: traditional; Descant Michael Murray

5 when knowl- edge, hand\_ in hand with peace, shall walk\_ the earth a-broad, the

1 "Your king - dom come"- on bend-ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray; and  
 2 But the slow watch - es of\_ the night not less\_ to God be-long, and  
 3 And lo, al - rea - dy on\_ the hills the flags\_ of dawn ap-pear. Gird  
 4 the day in whose\_ clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re vealed, when  
 5 when knowl - edge, hand\_ in hand with peace, shall walk\_ the earth a-broad, the

8

day of per - fect right - eous ness, the prom - ised day - of God.

faith - ful souls have year. d to see\_ on earth\_ that king-dom's day.  
 for\_ the ev - er - last - ing right\_ the si - lent stars\_ are strong.  
 up\_ your loins, you proph - et souls; pro - claim\_ the day\_ is near:  
 jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt\_ be healed;  
 day\_ of per - fect right - eous ness, the prom - ised day\_ of God.

During the early years of the 1600s, England's composers of sacred music were intrigued by the verse anthem, a new style of anthem in which one or more soloists sang the first verse while accompanied by the organ or strings. The five-voiced choir then immediately repeated both the words and music before the soloists moved on to the next verse.

This verse anthem was composed by Gibbons "for the King being in Scotland". Its original verses openly flattered King James I ("O King of kings"). Some 250 years later, Rev. H. R. Bramley provided the new text heard this evening. Instead of praising an earthly king, each verse extols a member of the Trinity.

The soaring final Amen, now a closing theme song for Abendmusik, is a fitting conclusion both for a royal ceremony and for adoring the Trinity.

Great Lord of Lords, supreme immortal King,  
O give us grace to sing  
Thy praise, which makes earth, air, and heaven to ring.

O Word of God, from ages unbegun,  
The Father's only Son,  
With Him in power, in substance Thou art one.

O Holy Ghost, whose care doth all embrace,  
Thy watch is o'er our race,  
Thou source of life, Thou spring of peace and grace.

One living Trinity, one unseen Light,  
All, all is Thine;  
Thy light beholds alike the bounds of depth and height.  
Amen.

Rev. H. R. Bramley (1833-1917)

***There is no Rose of Such Virtue*, Op. 14 (1954)**

**John Joubert (1927-2019)**

For centuries, the rose was a metaphor for the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to the Christ Child. The brief second verse quietly celebrates the Incarnation, the joining of the divine and human “in little space”. The South African-British composer, Joubert has created a modern work which feels both ancient and timeless with its clear text, long phrases, modal harmonies, and soft dissonances.

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
*Alleluia.*

By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in Persons three,  
*Pari forma.* [Of the same form]

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
*Res miranda.* [Thing of wonder]

Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyous birth:  
*Transeamus.* [Let us go.]

15<sup>th</sup>-century Middle English/Latin carol

***I Sing of a Maiden***

**Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988)**

Born in Lincolnshire, England, Bancroft moved Canada in 1929 where he eventually served as organist in Anglican churches in Winnipeg, Hamilton, Vancouver’s Christ Church Cathedral (1946-48), concluding his career at All Saints’ Cathedral in Edmonton. In 1953 he attended the annual Lessons and Carols at King’s College, Cambridge and brought the tradition to Canada.

The second line of text speaks of Mary (that maiden without equal) as choosing her son, meaning that her reply to the angel during the Annunciation revealed that she chose to accept the proposal: “May it be done according to your word.” The brief inner verses offer images of hope coming to earth to earth quietly (“all so still”), as gently as “dew of April” falls on the new flower or the budding spray (small branch filled with potential for new life).

I sing of a maiden that is makeless [without equal, unique];  
King of all kings to her son she ches [chose].



He came all so still  
Where his Mother was,  
As dew in April [freshness, new life]  
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still  
To his Mother's bowr,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still  
Where his Mother lay,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she;  
Well may such a lady Godes Mother be.

15<sup>th</sup>-century English carol

***Ave Maria*** (c. 1550-1560)

**Robert Parsons** (c. 1535-1572)

Robert Parsons was to become a Gentleman of the Royal Chapel (1563-72), meaning he was a paid but not ordained singer/composer to the chapel of Queen Elizabeth I. But since this Marian antiphon is in Latin, it was probably composed during the reign of Mary Tudor, a faithful daughter of Catholicism. Like everyone else at court, Parsons needed to demonstrate his fidelity to the religious thinking of the Tudor monarch of the day while the nation was forced to move either toward a new kind of Protestantism or back to Catholicism.

Musicians enjoy listening to the sopranos sing the opening pages because each time they enter one step higher, until they have sung through the hexachord (musicians thought in terms of six-note hexachords rather than eight-note octaves). You might think of this as symbolizing the song of praise ascending to heaven.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum;  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui.  
Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with you; [Luke 1:28]  
Blessed are you among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of your womb. [Luke 1:42]

William Laud (Dean of Gloucester and later Archbishop of Canterbury) asked Gibbons to set this story of John the Baptist (John 1:19-23) to music as an anthem for Advent. Gibbons once again turned to the verse anthem format in which the altos are accompanied and the choir responds by repeating much of the text.

[Altos]

This is the record of John,  
When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him:  
Who art thou?  
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly:  
I am not the Christ.

[Choir]

And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly:  
I am not the Christ.

[Altos]

And they asked him: What art thou then?  
Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not.  
Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

[Choir]

And they asked him: What art thou then?  
Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not.  
Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

[Altos]

Then said they unto him: What art thou?  
That we may give an answer unto them that sent us.  
What say'st thou of thyself?  
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:  
Make straight the way of the Lord.

[Choir]

And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Make straight the way of the Lord.

## Advent Hymn

*Please stand for the hymn and then be seated.*

1 On Jor - dan's bank, the Bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge,  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in. Pre - pare we in our  
and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
fal - len sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
doth thy peo - ple free, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
hearts a home, where such a might - y guest may come.  
waste a - way, like flowers that wi - ther and de - cay.  
light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

Tune from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg (1690);  
text by Charles Coffin (1676-1749), tr. John Chandler (1806-1876).

## Tudor Prayers and Sung Refrain

Thomas A. Walmisley (1783-1866)

Arr. J. Evan Kreider

Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple,

3  
speak of peace, now says our God.

5  
Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,

7  
mourn - ing 'neath their sorr - rows' load.

### [Sung refrain: Comfort, comfort . . .]

A prayer from Henry VIII's Primer (c. 1540):

O God, my Creator and Redeemer, give me grace always to remember thee, and when I am troubled, to fly to thee for comfort and succour. Strengthen me,

that I faint not, but ever trust in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**[Sung refrain: Comfort, comfort . . . .]**

A Prayer by Elizabeth I (her private book):

O Lord, strengthen my weakness,  
comfort my heaviness, and lighten my  
darkness. Be to me, O Lord, a strong  
tower of defence, a refuge in my  
tribulations, a lamp unto my feet, and a  
light unto my paths; through Jesus Christ,  
my only hope and Saviour. Amen.

**[Sung refrain: Comfort, comfort . . . .]**

A prayer from the Elizabethan Prayer Book:

O merciful God, who hast taught us in thy  
holy Word that thou dost not willingly  
afflict or grieve the children of men: Look

with pity upon the sorrows of thy  
servants; remember them, O Lord, in  
mercy, nourish their souls with patience,  
comfort them with a sense of thy  
goodness, lift up thy countenance upon  
them, and give them peace; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**[Sung refrain: Comfort, comfort . . . .]**

A prayer (Henry VIII) at close of day:

(See the text for Mundy, below).

**[Sung refrain: Comfort, comfort . . . .]**

***O Lord, the Maker of all Thing*** (c. 1560-1570)

**William Mundy** (c. 1529-1591)

William Mundy's career spanned the reigns of two Tudor monarchs, Queen Mary (defender of the Catholic faith, 1553-1558) and her half-sister, Elizabeth I (Protestant, reigned 1558-1603). Mundy became a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal (singer/composer) under Elizabeth I. He composed this English anthem for Elizabeth's Chapel Royal to sing during Compline, the day's final service which began shortly after sunset. Although this paraphrase of the traditional Latin hymn, *Te lucis ante terminum*, is often attributed to Henry VIII, it may have been provided by one of his clerks. As the day closes, the gathered faithful ask for God's protection through the night (nights were too often dangerous) and freedom from fear and sin so that rest may be peaceful.

O Lord, the maker of all thing,  
We pray thee now in this evening  
Us to defend through thy mercy  
From all deceit of our enemy;

Let neither us deluded be,  
Good Lord, with dream or fantasy,  
Our hearts waking in thee thou keep,  
That we in sin fall not on sleep.

O Father, through thy blessed Son  
Grant us this our petition,  
To whom with the Holy Ghost always  
In heav'n and earth be laud and praise.  
Amen.

Hymn text (8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> c.), paraphrased by either  
Henry VIII or a member of his court

***And the Glory of the Lord*** (1741)

**George Friederich Handel** (1685-1759)

Handel initially made his reputation in London as the composer of 40 Italian operas. But by the 1730’s tastes in London changed and his oratorios in English proved better for box office receipts. His best-known oratorio, *Messiah*, has neither plot nor characters. Instead, it presents an argument for Theism—for God being actively involved in human history. But the argument was so well hidden that the librettist, Charles Jennens, had to explain things to audiences in a special pamphlet. Handel gave benefit performances in Dublin for prisoners’ debt relief, a hospital, and an infirmary. The oratorio’s well-known opening chorus quotes these triumphant words from the prophet Isaiah:

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
And all flesh shall see it together,  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

***Final Responses for Evensong***

**Edward W. Naylor** (1867-1934)

Chant        The Lord be with you:  
Choir        And with thy spirit.  
Chant        The Lord give us his peace:  
Choir        And life eternal. Amen.

We invite you to remain for silent meditation as the choir recesses.

**Choir’s Private Closing Prayer** (in atrium)

Director        Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit this night,  
for you have redeemed me.

Choir            O God of goodness and truth, keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Sung             Amen.

Psalms 31:5

Psalms 17:8, *The Book of Common Prayer* (1928)  
music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

# Abendmusik Choir, Advent ~~MAXX~~

Michael Murray, *Director*

Gerald Harder, *Organ and Abendmusik alumnus*

Ruth Enns, *Chair Abendmusik Committee, publicity, piano*

Karen Thiessen, *Manager*

J. Evan Kreider, *Prayers, programme notes, photography, librarian*

Andrea Siemens, *Postcard design*

Catherine Cooper, *Calligraphy*

Greta Bartsch  
Maureen Bennington  
Warren Code  
Ruth Enns  
Cynthia Friesen  
Nadine Gomm  
Martha Kendall  
Brooke Kinniburgh

Steve Krehbiel  
J. Evan Kreider  
John Kroeker  
Zachary Kuepfer  
Allan Larson  
Michael McKenzie  
Michael Medley  
Jane Pulkingham

Christina Schellenberg  
Christoph Schwarzbach  
Glenn Sutherland  
Karen Thiessen  
David Wallace  
Jenny Wallace  
Jim Wearing  
Catriona Wilson



Founded in 1991 by Eric Hannan, the *Abendmusik Choir's* Vespers offer classical sacred music appropriate to the Liturgical Year (Advent and Lent) and prayers written across the centuries. The offerings support both the choir and construction of the new Pax House student residence at Menno Hall across the street from UBC and Regent College. Like the Christian students we support, our singers are drawn from various denominations.

Anyone interested in auditioning to sing with *Abendmusik* should contact  
Michael Murray at 236-889-5974.

# MENNO HALL

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<http://pcda.bc.ca/>

INTERAC e-Transfers can be sent to: [info@pcda.bc.ca](mailto:info@pcda.bc.ca)

Our [pcda.bc.ca/donate](http://pcda.bc.ca/donate) page includes instructions on how to send in your charitable donation, including INTERAC e-Transfers via [info@pcda.bc.ca](mailto:info@pcda.bc.ca). In the memo area, be sure to include your full name and address to receive a charitable donation receipt as a PDF by e-mail. If you're writing a cheque, please make it payable to either "PCDA" or "Menno Hall".

If you haven't already done so, please register for our mailing list at [pcda.bc.ca/subscribe](http://pcda.bc.ca/subscribe) to receive our newsletters and announcements. Thank you very much for your support of our student ministry and the choir!

To Learn More About Applying to Live in the new Pax House at Menno Hall across the street from UBC and Regent College, visit:

**[Paxhouse.ca](http://Paxhouse.ca)**

## Lenten Vespers *AMXXXVI*

**ABBOTSFORD**  
Sat., March 7, 2026, 7:30 p.m.  
Emmanuel Free Reformed Church  
3386 Mount Lehman Road

**VANCOUVER**  
Sun., March 8, 2026, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Philip's Anglican Church  
3737 West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue