



Saturday, March 7, 2026, 7:30 p.m., Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford  
Sunday, March 8, 2026, 7:30 p.m., St. Philip's Anglican Church, Vancouver

## OFFERING

Thank you for leaving your **offering** in the baskets 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

### **Pax House Society**

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

# Welcome

As Director of Menno Hall, I have the privilege of overseeing Pax House at Menno Hall at a moment many people have waited decades to see. The Menno Hall building is now in its final stages of completion, and for the first time, the long-held vision behind this project is becoming visible in concrete and daily decisions.

What has struck me most in this role is how many people carry this place in their hearts. I regularly meet people who tell me they have been praying for Menno Hall toward it, and holding this vision for 30, or even 40 years. Their faithfulness humbles me. I feel deeply honored to be present at this moment, helping move Pax House from vision to lived reality.

Interest from students has been strong. This year, we received over 150 applications for our 105 rooms. That response confirms there is a real hunger for a residence that takes faith, community life, and responsibility seriously. It also places a responsibility on us to steward this place well.

Pax House at Menno Hall is intentionally small. We are not trying to grow quickly. We are trying to grow wisely. Besides bringing the building to completion, much of the current work involves shaping policies, governance, and shared practices that will support healthy community life over time.

September 2026 will mark our first year of operations. As we approach that milestone, Lent feels like an appropriate season. This is a time for patience, attentiveness, and trust. Those same qualities will shape the life of Pax House as it opens its doors.

Thank you for the prayers, generosity, and quiet faithfulness that have carried this project to this point.

Wanda Froese, Director  
Pax House at Menno Hall



## Choir's Private 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

# Lenten Choral Vespers

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

*O Bone Jesu* (1588)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

We begin this evening's Lenten Choral Vespers with a brief hymn which is traditionally attributed to Palestrina and is sung by cathedral choirs on Good Friday. This prayer includes words of supplication as well as words of thanksgiving for the suffering Jesus endured.

*O bone Jesu,  
Miserere nobis,  
Quia tu creasti nos,  
Tu redemisti nos  
Sanguine tuo praetiosissimo.*

O gracious Jesus,  
Have mercy on us  
Because you created us,  
You have redeemed us  
With your most precious blood.

One of 27 Responsorias for Good Friday

## Lenten Responsive Reading<sup>1</sup>

One When he was insulted,  
he did not insult in return.

All **When he was threatened,  
he did not threaten.**

1 Peter 2:23

One The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

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<sup>1</sup> *Take our Moments and our Days, An Anabaptist Prayer Book, Vol. 2: Advent Through Pentecost*  
(Scottsdale, PA: Herold Press, 2010), pp. 434-435.

**All The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Psalm 27:1

One Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent  
and dwell on your holy mountain?

**All Those who walk without fault,  
those who act with justice  
and speak the truth from their hearts,**

One those who do not slander with their tongue,  
those who do no wrong to their kindred,  
who cast no slur on their neighbours,  
who hold the godless in disdain,  
but honour those who fear the Lord,

**All those who keep their word, come what may,  
and those who accept no bribes against the innocent.**

Psalm 15

One I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him,  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,  
and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Luke 15:18-19

**All Our souls are waiting for God,  
our help and our shield.**

One Our hearts are glad in you, Lord,  
because we trust in your holy name.

**All Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we wait for you.**

Psalm 33:20-22

# Hymn

(Please stand for the hymn and then be seated)

*Unison*

Women 1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
Men 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
All 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath, such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast, such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move, such a love as none can

strife, such a life as kill - - - eth death.  
length, such a strength as makes his guest.  
part, such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633), "The Call"  
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), from *Five Mystical Songs*

***Behold the Lamb of God*** (1741)

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

Handel had to wait nearly a decade before his oratorio, *Messiah*, finally gained acceptance. But once people realized that they could meditate on the scripture passages instead of searching for a traditional operatic plot, *Messiah* became his most cherished composition. The librettist, Charles Jennens (1700-1773) selected bible verses which portrayed God as being active in the unfolding of history. This was a direct challenge to the Deists who argued that after God set the universe in motion, God was no longer involved with humanity. This composition for choir opens what Handel called “Part the second” of *Messiah*, quoting John 1:29, telling of John the Baptizer pointing to Jesus and calling him the Lamb of God.

Behold the Lamb of God  
That taketh away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

***O Salutaris Hostia*** (1915)

**Herbert Howells** (1892-1983)

Howells set the final two verses of a eucharistic hymn by St Thomas Aquinas, *Verbum supernum prodiens*. It is most often sung during the Office of Lauds (when the sun rises) on the Feast of Corpus Christi and for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

*O salutaris Hostia,  
Quae caeli pandis ostium:  
Bella premunt hostilia,  
Da robur, fer auxilium.*

O saving Victim,  
Who expanded the door of heaven:  
Hostile armies press [us];  
Give strength, bear aid.

*Uni trinoque Domino  
Sit sempiterna gloria,  
Qui vitam sine termino  
Nobis donet in patria.  
Amen.*

To the One and Triune Lord,  
May there be everlasting Glory;  
Who life without end  
Gives us in the homeland [heaven].  
Amen.

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

***Wer will uns scheiden*** (SWV 330)

**Heinrich Schütz** (1585-1672)

Schütz was the best-known German composer before J.S. Bach. Both were devout Lutherans. Schütz worked at the Lutheran court in Dresden from 1615 until his death in 1672. “Wer will uns scheiden” (Op. 9, 1639) was composed during the disastrous Thirty Years War. Since the chapel choir and orchestra at Dresden were at times closed because its singers and instrumentalists were recruited for the army, Schütz was allowed to move to safety at the Lutheran court in Copenhagen, where he possibly composed this setting of the powerful poetic text by St Paul. Hearing these timeless words, we can give thanks that our present lives are spared the vicissitudes of war and persecution.

*Wer will uns scheiden  
Von der Liebe Gottes?  
Trübsal oder Angst, oder Verfolgung,  
Oder Hunger, oder Blöße,  
Oder Gefährlichkeit,  
Oder Schwerdt?  
Denn ich bin gewiss,  
Dass weder Tod, noch Leben,  
Weder Engel noch Fürstenthum,  
Noch Gewalt, weder Gegenwärtiges,  
Noch Zukünftiges,  
Weder Hohes, noch Tiefes,  
Noch kein andre Creatur  
Mag uns scheiden  
Von der Liebe Gottes,  
Die in Christo Jesu ist,  
Unserm Herren, Amen.*

Who will separate us  
From the love of God?  
Will hardship or distress, or persecution,  
Or hunger, or nakedness,  
Or peril,  
Or the sword?  
For I am convinced  
That neither death, nor life,  
Nor angels, nor rulers,  
Nor violence, nor things present,  
Nor things to come,  
Nor height, nor depth,  
Nor anything else in all creation,  
Will be able to separate us  
From the love of God  
Which is in Jesus Christ,  
Our Lord. Amen.

Romans 8:35, 38-39 (NRSV)

***The Beatitudes*** (1990)

**Arvo Pärt** (b. 1935)

Even though Jesus is best known for his ‘sermon on the mount’, virtually none of his most famous sayings are sung. Arvo Pärt addressed this oversight by setting the beatitudes to music. Pärt is best known in Estonia and beyond for his choral music written in a minimalist style—using few notes and fewer melodies. Once one accepts the aesthetic severity of his writing, it becomes possible to admire the floating quality of his musical ideas, each phrase rising slightly in pitch, ever more urgently reminding us of Jesus’ thinking which still directly challenges our society’s assumptions. The organ’s extended coda sounds improvised as the chords meld from one to another, portraying our rejoicing upon hearing of our ‘reward in heaven’.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace makers,  
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you,  
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake,

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad,  
for great is your reward in heaven,  
for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Amen.

Matthew 5:3-12

## ***We Are Not Alone***

**Pepper Choplin** (b. 1957)

This song affirms that we are always in the presence of our divine God, who is always with us. “We are not alone” is one of Choplin’s most frequently performed anthems. Repetition is used strategically, reinforcing our assurance of God presence. Often sung at Memorial Services, these words are appropriate for all times of the liturgical year.

We are not alone

Our God is with us now, through all our days, for ever and ever.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, we changed the name of our charity from

**Pacific Centre for Discipleship Association**  
to  
**Pax House Society.**

While our purposes remain the same, the new name reflects our focus on providing affordable student housing and promoting the integration of faith and learning from an Anabaptist Christian perspective, all through Pax House at Menno Hall.

In the coming months, we’ll be creating a new website and renaming our social media accounts to reflect this new name.

### **PAX HOUSE SOCIETY**

PO Box 74782 Connaught PO ▪ Vancouver, B.C. ▪ V6K 0E4  
<http://pcda.bc.ca/>

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

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

# Hymn

(Please stand for the hymn and then be seated)

Text and music: Marty Haugen, 1987

*Refrain*

Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to -

D Em7/D G/D A/D D Bm Bm7/A

This system contains the first line of the hymn. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to -". Below the vocal line is a piano accompaniment consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). Chord symbols are placed below the piano part: D, Em7/D, G/D, A/D, D, Bm, and Bm7/A.

mor - row, give us peace be - yond our fear, and

G A F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7

This system contains the second line of the hymn. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "mor - row, give us peace be - yond our fear, and". The piano accompaniment continues with chord symbols: G, A, F#m7, Bm, Em7, and F#7.

hope be - yond our sor - row.

G Em A/C# D Last time A/C# 7

This system contains the third line of the hymn. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics "hope be - yond our sor - row.". The piano accompaniment concludes with chord symbols: G, Em, A/C#, D, and a final measure marked "Last time A/C# 7".

Men 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
 All 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is  
 Women 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter,  
 All 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Bm F#m/A G

peace and glad - ness. Spir - it of all com - fort:  
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion:  
 ev - ery broth - er. Spir - it of all kind - ness:  
 way of heal - ing. Spir - it of com - pass - ion:

F Em D/F#

*To beginning*

fill our hearts.  
 God of love.  
 be our guide.  
 fill each heart.

G Bm A/C# G/B A *To beginning*

## Prayers and Sung Responses (Psalm 62:1)

For God a - lone my soul a - waits in

4

si - - - - - lence.

### [Sung refrain: For God alone . . . .]

*A prayer by St Augustine (354-430)*

God of life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and wear us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, we beseech you; turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise.

### [Sung refrain: For God alone . . . .]

*A prayer by St Clement of Rome (99 A.D., third pope of the Catholic Church)*

We beseech you O Lord, to grant us your help and protection. Deliver the afflicted, pity the lowly, raise the fallen, reveal yourself to the needy, heal the sick, and bring home your wandering people. Feed the hungry, ransom the captive, support the weak, comfort the fainthearted. Let all the nations of the earth know that you alone are God, that Jesus Christ is your child, and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

### [Sung refrain: For God alone . . . .]

*A prayer by St Leo the Great (c. 391-461)*

Grant to us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but rather to love heavenly things, that while all things around us pass away, we even now may hold fast those things which last forever.

**[Sung refrain: For God alone . . . .]**

*A prayer from the 16<sup>th</sup> century*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy,  
grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest,  
and peace at the last. Amen

**[Sung refrain: For God alone . . . .]**

***And I Saw A New Heaven*** (1928)

**Edgar Leslie Bainton** (1880-1956)

This powerful anthem is Bainton's best-known composition. The verses from the Book of Revelation turn the readers' attention from apocalyptic terror to consolation ("no more death . . . sorrow . . . nor crying") and divine intimacy ("God shall wipe away all tears from the eyes"). The anthem concludes by inviting us into a state of calm assurance. This anthem is about the promise of peace rather than triumphant shouts of victory.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:  
For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;  
And there was no more sea.

And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,  
Coming down from God out of heaven,  
Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying,  
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,  
And he will dwell with them and they shall be his people,  
And God himself shall be with them and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,  
And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,  
Neither shall there be any more pain,  
For the former things are passed away.  
God himself shall wipe away all tears,  
For the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:1-4

***Vesper Responsory***

**Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)**  
**arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)**

Chant      Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
Choir      Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Chant      Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
Choir      Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Chant      Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
Choir      Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV), Responsory for the Office of Vespers, early mediaeval Roman Rite;

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

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

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

Psalm 31:5

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

**Choir      Amen.**

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

**Abendmusik Choir, Lent MCMXXVJ**

Michael Murray, *Director*

Karen Thiessen, *Manager*

Ruth Enns, *Chair Abendmusik Committee, pianist*

Kevin Hiebert, *Email and website publicity, Abendmusik Vespers recordings editor*

Gerald Harder, *Organist and former member of Abendmusik Choir*

J. Evan Kreider, *Programme notes, photography, librarian, receipting*

Andrea Siemens, *Postcard design and former Abendmusik director and singer*

Catherine Cooper, *Calligraphy and former member of Abendmusik*

Greta Bartsch  
Maureen Bennington  
Warren Code  
Martha Coulthart  
Ruth Enns  
Charlotte Friesen  
Cynthia Friesen  
Nadine Gomm  
Barry Honda

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 the Pax House student residence in Menno Hall across the street from UBC and Regent College. Like the Christian students we support, our singers are drawn from many denominations. Pax House looks forward to welcoming its first cohort of students this coming September.

## **Michael Murray**

Director, Abendmusik Choir (2012 – 2026)

Michael Murray has announced that at the conclusion of this Vespers season, he will be retiring as Director of our Abendmusik Choir. The choir and the Board of Directors for the Pax House Society wish to express deep gratitude for everything Michael has done for us over these past fourteen seasons.

Michael has been our choir's fourth and longest-serving director. During these wonderful seasons, he introduced both singers and audiences to many new works, some of which he composed specifically for us. His Vespers successfully attracted new singers and enlarged our audience. Michael's weekly choir rehearsals have been rich with opportunities to learn new repertoire, enjoy his engaging sense of humour, and make new friends. Under Michael, the choir has found that singing the Advent and Lenten Vespers has been not only an opportunity to perform interesting choral music but also a time for singers to worship while singing. We wish both Michael and Sheryl all the best as they enter the next chapter in their lives and establish their new home in PEI.

We are pleased to announce that David Poon, Director of Music at St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church, has agreed to become our choir's new director this coming fall.