

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Savannah, Georgia - *Since 1800*



A Founders' Day Service of

CHORAL EVENSONG

November 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm

A WORD OF WELCOME

Welcome to First Baptist Church - Savannah's oldest standing house of worship. Our congregation believes that Jesus treated everyone with a spirit of love and equality. Therefore, we accept every individual without regard to age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, or socio-economic status. We affirm all persons as created in the image of God. In this place, individuals can find family, families can find community, the injured can find healing, and all can seek truth and justice. We labor together in love for each other, our community, our world, and our God. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcomed, accepted, and loved. For more information, visit www.fbc-sav.org.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

*Rev. Dr. Kyle T. Reese, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Justin L. Addington, Associate Minister
Rev. James C. Richardson, Organist Emeritus
Rev. David Wantland, Officiant & AGO Chaplain
Paul Leddington Wright, Guest Organist & Conductor
Maureen Field, Lay Reader
Evan Goetz, Crucifer
The Choir is joined by members and friends
of the American Guild of Organists*

PRE-SERVICE RECITAL

(Begins at 4:30 pm)

featuring Paul Leddington Wright, Organ

"Fanfare and Rumba on VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS" by Paul Leddington Wright (b. 1951)

"Allegro" - Organ Solo from a Concerto by Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

"Prelude 'The Spitfire'" by William Walton (1902-1983)

"Elegy" from The Downland Suite by John Ireland (1879-1962)

"Fantasia in G" (BWV 571) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

"Salut d'Amore" by Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

"Toccata in G Minor" by Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937)

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THE WORSHIP OF GOD

ENTRANCE

THE PROCESSION OF THE CHOIR

The people stand at the tolling of the bells and remain standing through the Psalm.

THE OPENING PRECES (*Sung by the Officiant & Choir*)

by Paul Leddington Wright

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips:

Choir: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us:

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

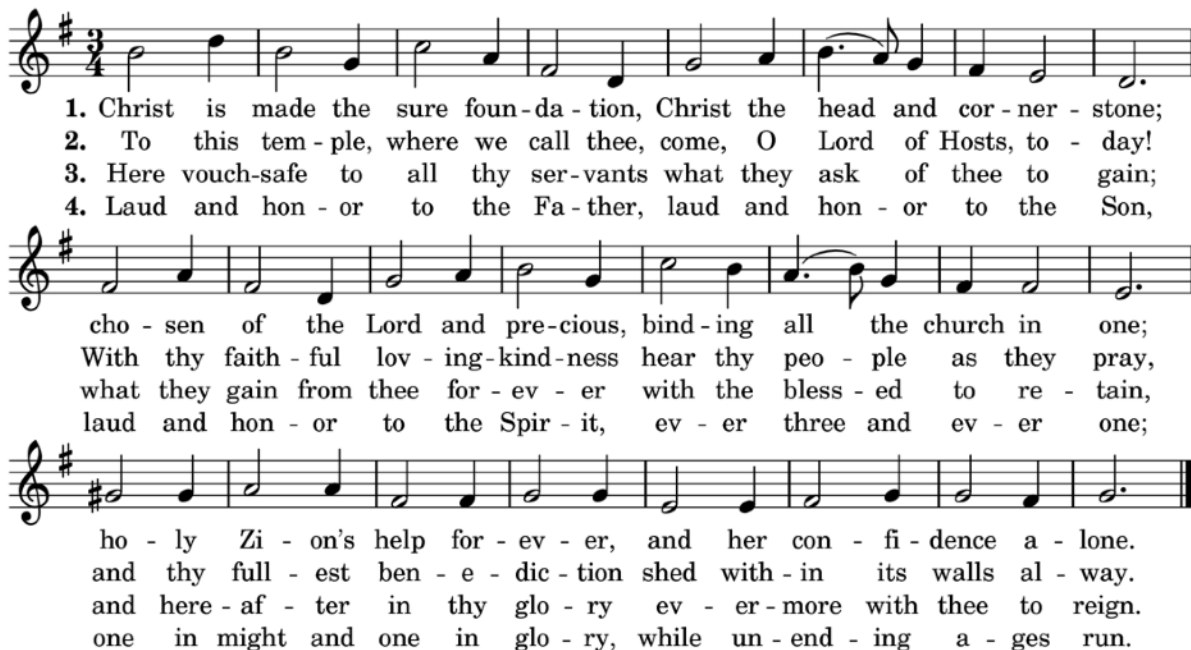
Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

THE HYMN - "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor-ner-stone;
2. To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day!
3. Here vouch-safe to all thy ser-vants what they ask of thee to gain;
4. Laud and hon-or to the Fa-ther, laud and hon-or to the Son,
cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious, bind-ing all the church in one;
With thy faith-ful lov-ing-kind-ness hear thy peo-ple as they pray,
what they gain from thee for-ev-er with the bless-ed to re-tain,
laud and hon-or to the Spir-it, ev-er three and ev-er one;
ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er, and her con-fi-dence a-lone.
and thy full-est ben-e-dic-tion shed with-in its walls al-way.
and here-af-ter in thy glo-ry ev-er-more with thee to reign.
one in might and one in glo-ry, while un-end-ing a-ges run.

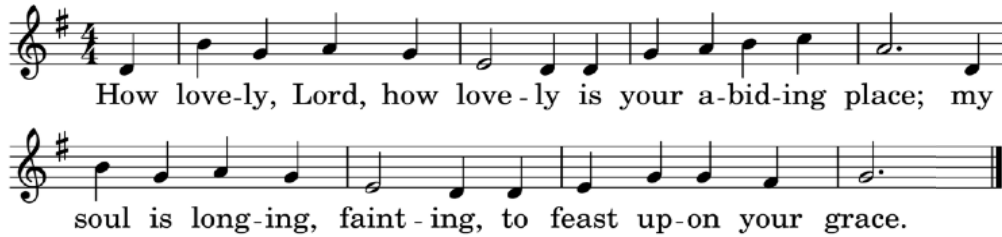
- Text translated by John Mason Neale

PROCLAMATION

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 84 (*Led by the Lay Reader*)

by Hal H. Hopson

RESPONSE:



How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;**
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

**Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. R**

Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

**Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. R**

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

**No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.**

**O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you. R**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The people may be seated at the conclusion of the Psalm.

THE FIRST LESSON - 1 Kings 8:22-30 (*Read by the Lay Reader*)

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed that you promised to your servant my father David. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

THE MAGNIFICAT (*Sung by the Choir*)

by James C. Richardson

The Magnificat is the Blessed Virgin Mary's song of thanksgiving in response to the fact that she will bear the Son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath done to me great things, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him, from generation to generation.
He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagining of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy,
As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.*

- Text from Luke 1:46-55

The people stand, as able.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The people may be seated at the conclusion of the Gloria Patri.

THE SECOND LESSON - Matthew 16:13-20 (*Read by the Officiant*)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (*Sung by the Choir*)

by James C. Richardson

The Nunc Dimittis is the song of the aged Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Upon taking the infant Jesus into his arms, Simeon utters these words of thanksgiving.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

- Text from Luke 2:29-32

The people stand, as able.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

The people remain standing for The Apostles' Creed and the Prayers.



RESPONSE

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Spoken by All*)

The Apostles' Creed grew from Trinitarian statements of belief made by early Christians at their baptism.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE LESSER LITANY (*Read Responsively*)

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.
People: Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken by All*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

THE SUFFRAGES (*Read Responsively*)

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us:
People: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Officiant: O Lord, save the State.
People: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness:
People: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people:
People: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord:
People: **Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

Officiant: O God, make clean hearts within us:
People: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

THE COLLECTS (*Intoned by the Officiant*)

Three short prayers are offered which 'collect' our thoughts. The first honors the day of celebration, the second is a prayer for peace, and the third is a prayer against peril.

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate
the anniversary of this house of prayer:
We give you thanks for the fellowship of those
who have worshiped in this place,
and we pray that all who seek you here may find you,
and be filled with your joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right
judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that
peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be
fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered
from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness;
through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love
of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The people may be seated after the third Collect.

THE WORDS OF GREETING (*Offered by the Senior Minister*)

THE CHORAL ANTHEM - "Our Hope for Years to Come"

by Mary McDonald

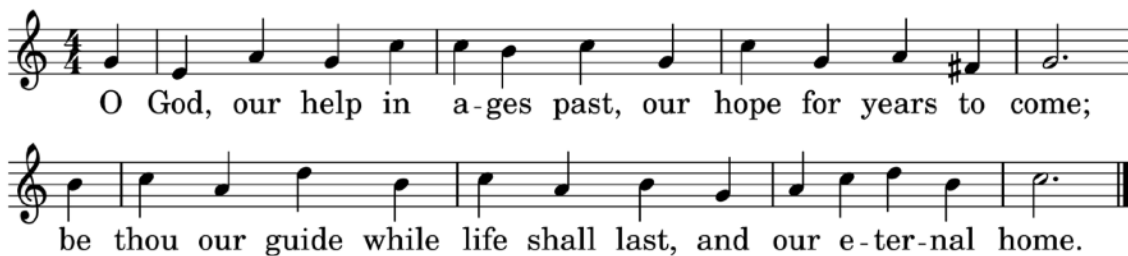
*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:*

*Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.*

The people are invited to join the Choir on the final stanza.



- Text by Isaac Watts

Choir Alone: *And our eternal home. Amen.*



SENDING FORTH

THE INTERCESSIONS (*Offered by the Officiant*)

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Isaiah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene; for Stephen, the first martyr, and all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land. In your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead. **Amen.**

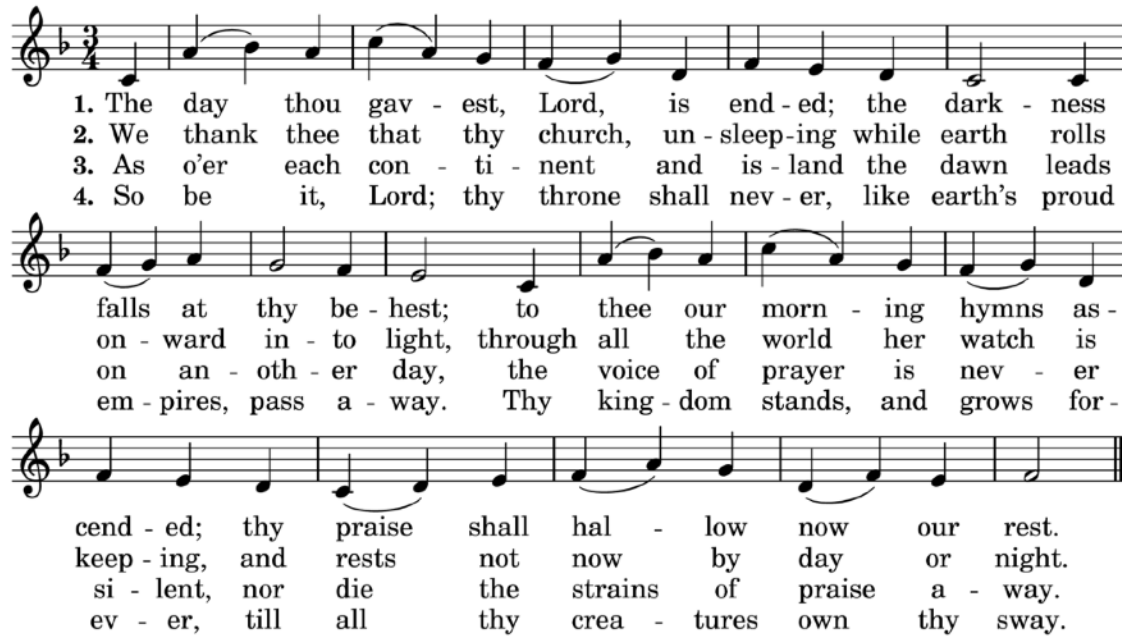
THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (*Spoken by All*)

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

The people stand for the Hymn and remain standing through the Blessing.



1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended; the darkness
 2. We thank thee that thy church, un-sleeping while earth rolls
 3. As o'er each continent and island the dawn leads
 4. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never, like earth's proud
 falls at thy be-hest; to thee our morn-ing hymns as-
 on-ward in-to light, through all the world her watch is
 on an-oth-er day, the voice of prayer is nev-er
 em-pires, pass a-way. Thy king-dom stands, and grows for-
 cend-ed; thy praise shall hal-low now our rest.
 keep-ing, and rests not now by day or night.
 si-lent, nor die the strains of praise a-way.
 ev-er, till all thy crea-tures own thy sway.

- Text by John Ellerton

THE BENEDICAMUS DOMINO (*Read Responsively*)

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING (*Offered by the Officiant*)

Glory to God whose power, working in us,
 can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
 Glory to him from generation to generation in the church,
 and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the Organ Voluntary as the Choir recesses.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY - "Concluding Voluntary in C Major"

by Charles Vincent



ABOUT EVENSONG

Evensong is an ancient tradition for the people of God to offer praise and prayer as the day draws to a close. Choral Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. The main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in human history, and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sung psalms and canticles are interwoven with readings from the Old and New Testaments and the recitation of the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer. Other prayers and hymns are drawn from the many centuries of the Christian Church. Typically, the choir offers prayer and praise on behalf of the congregation. However, since today's service honors a church anniversary, this Evensong will include opportunities for congregational participation.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia, was chartered on November 26, 1800, and soon thereafter the first meeting house was built on Franklin Square. The cornerstone of the present Greek Revival structure on Chippewa Square was laid on February 2, 1831, and the building was completed in 1833. The church was granted a perpetual charter on December 19, 1801, by Governor Josiah Tattnall, Jr., to "the Deacons of the Baptist Church in Savannah." The name has been the First Baptist Church since February 4, 1847. The Sunday School was organized on April 29, 1827. Henry Holcombe, first pastor of the church, edited "The Analytical Repository," said to have been the earliest religious magazine in the South and the first Baptist missionary magazine in the nation. William Bullein Johnson, second pastor, became the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention, after retiring as president of the Triennial Convention. In 1828, Josiah Penfield, a deacon in the church, left a legacy of \$2,500 to the Georgia Baptist Convention, which became the first money given toward the establishment of Mercer University, principal Baptist college of Georgia. The church began ordaining women as deacons as early as the 1970s, and left the Southern Baptist Convention in the early 2000s. The church became welcoming and affirming to the LGBTQ community in 2015.

ABOUT OUR GUEST

A graduate of Cambridge University, Paul Leddington Wright was organ scholar of St. Catharine's College, graduating with a Master's degree in music, studying with Sir David Willcocks and Peter Hurford. Three years work as a Musical Director in the professional theater saw him musically direct the first ever UK tour of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." His next appointment was as Assistant Organist at Coventry Cathedral and Director of Music at Coventry's Methodist Central Hall. Meanwhile he founded the national Methodist Association of Youth Clubs Orchestra and Singers who performed annually in London's Royal Albert Hall.

From 1984 to 1995 he was Organist and Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral. From 1995 he continued his association with the Cathedral as Associate Director of Music while pursuing a busy career with BBC television and radio as a conductor and arranger. Since 1987, he has conducted over 300 programs in the BBC series, "Songs of Praise." He has been conductor of Coventry Cathedral's choral society, the Saint Michael's Singers, for 26 years and has made over 20 CD recordings with that choir and the BBC Daily Service Singers with whom he regularly broadcasts on BBC Radio 4. He was Artistic Director of the International Church Music Festival from 1991 to 2010. A frequent visitor to the USA, he is in demand as a recitalist, choral clinician and conductor.