

Note on Music for Ascension Sunday



Olivier Messiaen
collecting birdsongs

“I was born a believer. A number of my works are dedicated to shedding light on the theological truths of the Catholic faith. That is the most important aspect of my music — perhaps the only one I shall not be ashamed of in the hour of death.”

Thus spoke Olivier Messiaen, the leading French composer in the second half of the 20th century. During a tenure of more than sixty years as organist of Trinity Church in Paris, Messiaen created some of the most significant music ever composed for the organ.

Today, as our Meditation for Ascension Sunday, we shall enjoy an early work by Messiaen, *Serene Alleluias of a Soul Longing for Heaven*, part two of the four-movement “*Ascension*” suite composed in 1932-34. Subtitled *Four Symphonic Meditations*, the work was conceived first for large symphony orchestra, then transcribed for organ solo.

The influence of Gregorian chant is quite evident in *Serene Alleluias*, where Messiaen expresses the quiet joy of a soul anticipating its union with Christ in heaven. There is also a subtle Oriental flavor in this music, owing to the composer’s study of ancient Greek and Hindu scales and rhythms. Exotic and voluptuous, yet spiritually focused, the music of Olivier Messiaen richly rewards attentive and open-minded listeners. They will discover “music which touches everything without ceasing to touch God.”

—Rudy Shackelford

****WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.****

Please be sure to sign the Welcome card found in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Thank you!

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday school hour and 11:00 service.

The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.

Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP? Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
Sunday, May 12 Mother’s Day	9:30 a.m.	SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK BREAKFAST (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday school for all ages
	6:00 p.m.	Common Thread (WBFH)
Monday, May 13	5:30 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (Mary Lotsey)
	6:00 p.m.	The Points HOA (WBFH)
Tuesday, May 14	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (WBFH)
Thursday, May 16	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Bazaar Workshop (WBFH)
Saturday, May 18	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Recital & Reception (Julia Middleton students, Sanctuary & WBFH)
Sunday, May 19	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday school for all ages

MISSION TRIP, MAY 12-18

Please pray for the Mission Team who will be traveling to and serving at Higher Ground Retreat Center in Hillsville, VA. The team will be commissioned at the 8:30 a.m. Informal Worship service prior to their departure.

Please be in prayer for the following team members:

Alton Brown, Al and Judy Burner, Ron Ervi and Loreen Paiva, Ken and Ruth Ann Freeman, Michael and Jean Melton, Pastor Paul Song, Brad Thomas, and Gwen and Grady Wesson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Paul will join the Summer Mission Team through May 17. Following the mission trip, he will be out of the office through Memorial Day, enjoying time with his family.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in celebrations of our May birthday boys, Brandon and John Bell, by Patsy and Kirk Bell.

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY and **HOUSE OF PRAYER** will not meet on May 16, 23, or 31. **We will resume our weekly meetings on Thursday, June 6.**

PRIME TIMERS – May 22, 9:30 a.m. – We are going to “**Custom House**” in old Yorktown. We may get lunch after. Meet at church 9:30-9:45 a.m. to caravan. Contact Dawn Cluts for more info. Also, Prime Timers are planning a **Paint Party** on **Saturday, July 20 at 2:00 p.m.** Cost will be \$10 per person, and we need 10 people to save the date. This is open to anyone.

GRADUATION SUNDAY, June 9 *(during 11AM Worship)*

If you have a family member graduating from high school, college, or graduate school, please email your information to admin@bethanyumc-gp.org or drop off in the church office as soon as possible. Information on younger students (middle school and below) who are transitioning to the next level is welcome also.

Join us on June 9th in celebrating and praying for these graduates who are transitioning to new careers and schools. We will also recognize our retiring educators.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the families of former member, **Melissa Rowe**, who passed on April 28, and **Rev. Manning Berry Harrell**, former Bethany pastor (1988-1989), passed on April 24.

CONVERSATION ON POST-GENERAL CONFERENCE

Pastor Paul invites you to talk with him any Tuesday in June, if you have questions on any topic regarding General Conference's decision. Please contact him by phone (804-642-2110 office; 703-625-8025 call/text), or come to his office.

In addition, Pastor Paul will host a **Bethany Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, June 9 at 5 p.m.** in the sanctuary to discuss these matters as a church family. All are invited to attend.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 each Sunday for fellowship and celebration!

Birthdays

5/12 Jennings Naquin
5/14 Cheyenne Taylor; Mike Sage; Matt Sage; Pauline Reimold
5/15 Mary Leigh
5/16 Billie Edwards
5/17 Philip Ransone
5/18 Evan Reams

Anniversaries

None this week

The family of Judy Hudgins would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, visits, flowers, food, memorial donations and most of all, the thoughts and prayers at the passing of our loved one. What a loving, caring church we have at Bethany! A special thank you goes to the Hospitality Committee for a beautiful reception, as well as to everyone who donated food for the reception. Again, thank you all for helping us through this tough time.

-- Milton Hudgins and family



Once again our Bethany family has met the needs of our youth in the community!

We met and exceeded the goal to support Music Camp, July 15-19, 2024.

Special thanks to the Friendship Class, UMM, UMW for their special donations, and to all who participated in the bake sales and car wash ticket fundraisers.

Your generosity will greatly impact the enthusiasm of our Music Camp participants.

-- Music Camp Committee