



in the  
Atrium

FEBRUARY 15, 2021 - PREPARING FOR LENT

Emily Smith, Soprano    Melissa Gleason, Mezzo  
Axelle Pelfrène, Alto    Greg Barry, Tenor    Ben Clements, Bass

## *Miserere* *Have Mercy Upon Me*

Psalm 51 (English adaptation, Ivor Atkins)  
Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Make me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord and my mouth shall show thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee but thou delightest not in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise. O be favorable and gracious unto Sion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness with the burnt offerings and oblations, then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.



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# *He Mends Your Broken Bones: A Response to Psalm 51*

Malcolm Guite (b.1957)

*He calls you to discern his time and season.  
The sempiternal season of his mercy  
Lifts like the sun above your dark horizon.*

*Expose your darkness, sing your miserere,  
His light will judge, and judging, heal your sin.  
Then bathe in sheer beauty, as Allegri*

*Sounds out your penitence, and let Christ clean  
Your soul once more and scrub out every stain  
Washing you thoroughly. For he has seen*

*What you confess and what you hide. Again  
He mends your broken bones and makes for you  
A clean heart, comes to comfort you again,*

*Comes with his Holy Spirit to renew  
The spirit in you, calling you to sing  
Of all your loving God has done for you.*

## *Silent God*

From “There Was No Path So I Trod One”  
Edwina Gateley (b.1943)

This is my prayer—

That, though I may not see, I be aware  
Of the Silent God who stands by me.

That, though I may not feel, I be aware  
Of the Mighty Love which doggedly follows me.

That, though I may not respond, I be aware  
That God—my Silent, Mighty God, waits each day.

Quietly, hopefully, persistently.

Waits each day and through each night for me. For me—alone.

# *Let Your God Love You*

Edwina Gateley (b.1943)

Be silent. Be still. Alone. Empty before your God.  
Say nothing. Ask nothing. Be silent. Be still.  
Let your God look upon you. That is all.  
God knows. God understands.  
God loves you with an enormous love,  
And only wants to look upon you with that love.  
Quiet. Still. Be. Let your God—  
Love you.

## *Ash Wednesday Prayer*

Creating God,  
still Center of the world you have made,  
we come to you in this season of turning and returning.  
We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts,  
but we know you are our source and our destiny.  
In the midst of life,  
we return to you, we turn toward you.  
we thank you that you receive even the broken heart,  
the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit.  
Seeking you in secret,  
may we turn around to honor you among humanity;  
through Jesus Christ, our path homeward to you.

Amen.

~ Ruth Duck

Come, brothers and sisters, let us consider the dust and ashes of which we were formed. What is the reality of our present life and what shall we become tomorrow? In death where is the poor and where the rich? Where is the slave and the master? They are all ashes. The beauty of countenance has withered, and the strength of youth has been cut down by death... All has withered as the grass of the field and has vanished. Come...let us fall on our knees in humble prayer before Christ.

~ Verses During the Last Kiss: Funeral of the Dead Orthodox Liturgy



Josefa de Óbidos (1630–1684) The Sacrificial Lamb



## MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

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ART SONG IN THE ATRIUM is a virtual Lenten series, designed to offer music and poetry, images and scripture readings as aids to personal devotions and a time of meditation.

The series features singers from Mayflower's Chancel Choir and, beginning February 22, will also feature the beautiful Bösendorfer piano acquired in the fall of 2020, housed in the warm, vibrant acoustics of our Atrium.

We are grateful to the many generous donors who contributed to the purchase of our new piano, which allows for projects such as this one to come to life.