



in the
Atrium

ArSong

MARCH 1, 2021

Axelle Pelfrène, Mezzo Soprano Julia Brown, Piano

En Prière In Prayer

Stéphan Bordèse (1847-1919)

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

As the voice of a child can reach You, O my Father,
Hear my prayer, on bended knee before You!
As You have chosen me to teach Your laws on earth,
I will know how to serve You, noble King of kings, O Light!
On my lips, Lord, place the salutary truth,
In order that he who doubts should with humility revere You!
Do not abandon me, give me the necessary gentleness,
To ease suffering, to relieve sorrow, misery!
Reveal Yourself to me, my Father, in whom I trust and hope:
For You I wish to suffer and to die on the cross, at Calvary!

As beautiful and otherworldly as music of Gabriel Faure always is, here it is the lyrics by Stéphane Bordèse that take hold of us as much as the music.

The words, “You have chosen me to teach Your laws on earth,” seem only valid for Jesus to speak and we will come to see that the words of this entire poem actually form a prayer from Jesus to His Father. But it strikes us also that with every word and act in our own daily lives, however menial or vibrant, we live and move in hope that Jesus’ prayer will become ours, too.

This is a prayer where we ask God to transform our own lives so that we may inspire those around us to believe, trust, serve, revere, and hope in the Lord.



Now more than ever, aren't the eyes of the world upon us as we encounter the many faces of prejudice and persecution? Aren't we ambassadors of Christ to them? Which ultimately leads us to the heart of “En Prière” as we cry out to God to provide all that we lack in our service to Him, not least of all to give us anew a revelation of Himself so that we may die to self and sin and be “alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

The last line reminds us of the following words of the Apostle Paul.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
(Galatians 2:20-21 ESV)

As the final notes of “En Prière” fade away, the image that resonates is the cross of Calvary, where all our prayers must begin. The work would seem unfinished unless it had led us to the cross, always “in prayer” as was Christ Himself.

(Thoughts adapted from writings on pilgrimdreams.com (Dora A.K.)



ROMANS 10:8-11

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we proclaim; because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.'



MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

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.

MayflowerChurch.org

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