

An
Italian Christmas

with the TRINITY YOUTH CHOIR

THE LORD'S DAY, DECEMBER 9
6:00 P.M.



The Reading of the Word

Luke 1:46-55

Page 1088 in the Pew Bible

The Hymn No. 162

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

The Homily

“All Generations Will Call Me Blessed”

Mr. Cooper

The Response to the Word

The Anthem

Magnificat

Giovanni Pergolesi

Translation of Latin Text:

1. *Magnificat* – (Chorus): My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things to me; and Holy is His name.

2. *Et misericordia* – (Soprano and Alto soli and chorus): And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud, even the arrogant of heart.

3. *Deposuit* – (Chorus): He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble. The hungry He has filled with good things and the rich He has sent away empty.

4. *Sucepit Israel* – (Tenor and Bass duet): He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

5. *Sicut locutus est* – (Chorus): As it was spoken to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

6. *Sicut erat in principio* – (Chorus): As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Soloists: Merritt Lee, *soprano*; Halina Speece, *alto*; Claude Newsome, *tenor*;
Morris Carmichael, *bass*

† Benediction

† Postlude

Aria sopra la Bergamasca

Marco Uccellini

All are invited to a reception following the service in the Westminster Room.

A note about *Magnificat*

Giovanni Pergolesi (1710-1736) lived a short life, but his originality left an indelible mark on music history. Known for his Italian comic operas, Pergolesi was a master of depicting character and emotion and crafting dramatic contrast between melodic ideas. None of that really counts here, because Pergolesi did not compose this *Magnificat*! This cantata (sacred choral work) was falsely attributed to Pergolesi in 1910, and this did much to popularize the piece in the early 20th century. Whether this false attribution was made mistakenly or intentionally, no one really knows. This *Magnificat* was actually composed by Francesco Durante (1684-1755), who was an Italian music composition teacher and composer of church music. Pergolesi was a student of Durante.

The *Magnificat* is found in the first chapter of Luke. It is the “song of Mary,” sung in response to the greeting of her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. Durante’s setting of the *Magnificat* begins with the sopranos singing a melody adapted from Gregorian chant. This sturdy “magnify” theme is sung by each voice part and is contrasted by a second, vibrant “rejoicing” theme that is also passed among the voice parts. *Et misericordia* begins with soprano and alto soloists telling of the mercy of God upon those who fear Him. The scene changes suddenly with the full chorus depicting God’s judgment upon the proud and arrogant. *Deposuit* contains two contrasting themes, each accentuating a different text. The first, imposing theme continues the judgment of God upon the rich and mighty. The second, lighter theme tells of God’s filling the hungry and exalting the humble. *Suscepit Israel* is a delightful tenor and bass duet highlighting the remembrance of God’s mercy toward His chosen Israel. *Sicut locutus est* is a majestic responsorial celebration of God’s eternal promises to Abraham and to his offspring, Israel. This celebration gives way to a deliberate *Gloria Patri*. *Sicut erat in principio* brings this work full-circle with the original Gregorian chant theme and a faster second theme. The chant theme states, “as it was in the beginning, is now.” The second theme declares, “and ever shall be, world without end.” A third sustained theme joins with the first two and replies, “Amen!”

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THANKS TO OUR GUEST MUSICIANS:

Tian Xu Watson, *violin 1*
Yidan Zhang, *violin 2*
Nikko White, *viola*
Nathan Cottrell, *cello*
Thomas Bowers, *harpsichord*