

Sunday of the Resurrection Anthem

Guest Soloist: Mr. Lawrence Cotton

Our anthem this morning is Part Three of a musical composition titled *Five Mystical Songs*. Set to music in 1906 by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, it is based on four sacred poems written by the 17th century Welsh poet and Anglican priest, George Herbert and published in 1633.

The setting of *Love Bade Me Welcome* is a banquet, a love feast, to which the soul is invited, a soul who feels the guilt of sin and feels unworthy of God's love and grace.

The poet describes God simply as 'Love' who gently insists that the soul accept the welcome he is offered and join him at the feast.

The anthem's arrangement features a baritone solo voice with the choir joining in the final stanza, wordlessly singing the antiphon *O Sacrum Convivium*, St. Thomas Aquinas's meditation on Christ's promise to be present at the communion table.

Nancy Wright-DeKuyper, Christ Church Choir

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:

Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,

I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling, did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame

Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:

So I did sit and eat.

Reference: 'Love Bade Me Welcome: George Herbert's Dialogue with God' by Beverly Beem, March 2, 2018, Spectrum Magazine

<https://spectrummagazine.org/article/2018/03/02/love-bade-me-welcome-george-herbert-%25E2%2580%2599s-dialogue-god>