

Counterpoint on Music for Sunday



John Wall, Music Director 10/15/18

In these last weeks of the church year, the words “Cosmic, Global, and Glory” emerge. God *plays the cosmic card* with Job, James pulls Abraham’s encounter with Melchizek into a Christ who as a high priest who leads by being the Suffering Servant, and Jesus puts to right a couple of disciples, eager for good seats, in the place we all must be: servants of all.

With all this powerful and vitally important stuff swirling around, music for the organ prelude is in truth a bit sentimental, silly, and shallow like Job and James and John at the outset in today’s scriptures. Then just as in the lessons, we get down business singing three strong hymns in the liturgy. Today’s psalm demands *music* as it tells of God’s independence of humans even making “that Leviathan, for the sport of it.” Our response needs to be “bless the Lord O my soul and alleluias.” The choir sings into life Psalm 104. Later the choir proclaims *God-Creator* in an anthem by Beethoven.

Being in a minor key, the final hymn holds us in a serious mood. The postlude, a toccata in C minor by Boëllman sustains the sense of dark foreboding. Those of you who do not like when the organist goes all out will wisely have left for coffee. Those who can take things *strong* may gain insight into God’s demands of us in these turbulent times.



PS What a theme! Almost fifty years ago I learned this Toccata at a request of a bride for her wedding. I'd love to know the couples' marital history!