

**Opening Service of Interfaith Worship
Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist**

Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston

The Reverend Don E. Saliers, *AGO Chaplain, William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship, Emeritus, Emory University, Atlanta*

Rabbi Paul Edward Cohn, *D. Min, D.D., Congregation Temple Sinai, New Orleans*

The Reverend Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, *rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Metuchen, New Jersey*

The Reverend Jonathan Gaspar, *director of divine worship, Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston*

The Choir of Trinity Church in the City of Boston

Richard Webster, *choir director*

Colin Lynch, *prelude and service organist*

Leo Abbott, *postlude organist*

Prelude **March to Glory: "Draw me nearer"** **Carol Barnett**
(b. 1949)

First performance, commissioned by the AGO 2014 National Convention in Boston

The congregation stands as the procession enters.

Hymn **Love divine, all loves excelling** **BLAENWERN**

Graphic

Invocation and Welcome **The Reverend Don E. Saliers**

Hymn **Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round** **Libby Larsen**
(b. 1950)

First performance, commissioned by the AGO 2014 National Convention in Boston

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Prayer

Please be seated for the readings.

Reading **Malachi 3: 1–5**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Anthem **Jubilate Deo** **Matthew Martin**
(b. 1976)

First performance, commissioned by the AGO 2014 National Convention in Boston

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise.
Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Reading

John 3: 22–30

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized—John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

Now a discussion about purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.’ John answered, ‘No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.’

Please stand to sing the hymn.

Hymn The Great forerunner of the race

UT QUEANT LAXIS

Graphic

Please be seated for the sermon.

Sermon

The Reverend Barbara Cawthorne Crafton

Anthem Jesu, the very thought of thee

Paul Halley
(b. 1952)

Jesu, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the memory find,
a sweeter sound than Jesus’ Name,
the Savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art:

how good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this
nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is,
none but who love him know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be;
in thee be all our glory now,
and through eternity. Amen.

—Latin, second century; St. 5, Latin, fifteenth century
tr. Edward Caswall (1814–1878), alt.

Please stand for the prayers and closing hymn.

Closing Prayers and Benediction

Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn

Hymn How shall I sing that majesty?

COE FEN

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Please be seated for the voluntary.

Postlude **Fantasia sur l’hymne à Saint Jean Baptiste**

Daniel Roth
(b. 1942)

First performance; commissioned by Leo Abbott for this service of interfaith worship

Program Notes

Paul Halley’s setting of *Jesu, the very thought of thee* is based on the hymn tune *ST. BOTOLPH*. In East Anglia, there are numerous sites dedicated to Saint Botolph/Botwulf (610–680), the patron of travelers. “Botolph’s stump” gave rise to Boston, a market town in Lincolnshire, where this hymn tune’s composer was organist of the parish church of Saint Botolph, the patron saint of “new” Boston.

Daniel Roth writes:

It was Leo Abbott who gave me the idea to write a piece on *Ut queant laxis*, the hymn for John the Baptist. While researching the subject, I discovered many interesting symbols. The piece starts with an introduction presenting the first six tones of the musical scale (Ut–La), like actors of a theater piece; after this, the incredible life of John is described musically, using some elements of the introduction. The main theme, heard several times on full organ, expresses John’s words: “He [Jesus] must increase and I must decrease.”

The commissioning of Roth’s *Fantasia sur l’hymne à Saint Jean Baptiste* was funded in part through grants from the Boston Chapter AGO Special Projects Advisory Committee, the Washington, D.C. AGO Foundation, and a generous donation from the Durgin Family, in memory of C. Peter Durgin and Joan Freeley.