

Sunday, 25 May 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today is the sixth Sunday of the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday on June 8.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/season-easter>

Prelude

John Knowles Paine (1839-1906) was appointed Harvard University's first organist and choirmaster in 1861. He was one of the *Boston Six* group of composers, a group of six composers based in Boston in the late 19th and early 20th centuries who helped establish the American school of composition that would distinguish it from the European school to which they were all descendants of. The members, along with Paine, Arthur Foote (1853–1937), George Chadwick (1854–1931), Amy Beach (1867–1944), Edward MacDowell (1861–1908), and Horatio Parker (1863–1919).

Offertory

Composer Rollo Dilworth's (b. 1970) arrangement of the spiritual *Down by the Riverside* was commissioned by the Cincinnati Children's choir and published in 2016. Dilworth was born in St. Louis, Missouri and studied at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Since 2009 Dr. Dilworth has been a faculty member in the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Postlude

Arthur Foote (1853-1937) was a composer and organist at First Unitarian Church in Boston. Along with John Knowles Paine, he was a founder of the American Guild of Organists. A graduate of Harvard, he was a member of the *Boston Six*. (see prelude notes)