

Sunday, 19 October 2025 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Dr. Gerre Edward Hancock (1934-2012) was Organist and Choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City for over 30 years. His *Air for Organ* was composed in 1963 and features a variety of solo sounds on the organ as well the full dynamic range available from the softest sounds to almost full organ. He dedicated the piece to his wife with the inscription “For Judy.” During her long life and career, organist Judith Hancock (1934-2025) served alongside her husband, Gerre, at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. She also held positions at St. James’ Church, Madison Avenue; St. James the Less, Scarsdale New York; Church of the Redeemer Cincinnati; and churches in Bronxville and Durham, NC. She died last week on October 10, 2025.

Handbell Anthem

Handbells were first brought to the United States from England by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902. ELPC owns a 4-octave set of bells manufactured by Schulmerich Bells in Green Lane, PA.

Offertory Anthem

Ken Medema (b. 1943) was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is almost completely blind, only being able to mainly distinguish between light and dark. The chorus of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* is in our *Glory to God Hymnal*, #469.

Recessional Hymn

The text of *Be Thou My Vision* is believed to have been written by an anonymous Irish monk from around the 8th century. It was first translated by Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931). This literal translation was published as sixteen unrhymed couplets in 1905. Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) made a rhymed version of this translation, which was included in an Irish hymnal where it was set to the tune SLANE. This text and tune combination appeared in several British hymnals and first appeared in North America in *The Hymnary of the United Church of Canada* (Toronto, 1930).

The tune SLANE is based on an Irish folk tune that was sung with the text “With my love come on the road.” The tune’s wide range of an octave and a fourth has not stopped it from becoming a much-loved and favorite hymn. This hymn was the number two vote getter in our favorite hymns survey. The tune name refers to a hill near Tara in County Meath, Ireland, where St. Patrick is said to have defied the pagan King Loeghaire (pronounced LEER-ee or LEER-ah) by igniting the Easter Vigil fire before the royal fire celebrating the return of spring had been lit on Tara.