**Music Notes: November 17th, 2019**

**Today’s musicians are:**

* The Chancel Choir
* Mike Carney, UUCC Music Director

**Special Music**: Honey in the Rock – African-American Spiritual, arr. Page

**Centering Music:** Autumn of Kyoto - Kunimatsu

**Offertory:** Poco Lento and Animato from *Six Preludes for Organ* - Bloch

**Postlude:** The Journey – arr. Martin

“Honey in the Rock” is a traditional song from the African-American Spiritual tradition, and includes many hallmarks of that style, including call-and-response singing and lyrical themes expressing hope of a better world. The song originated in the southern United States, although no one can say exactly where or when. The first recordings and publications of it began to appear in the 1930s, and like most songs that grew out of the oral tradition, several different variations of the melody and lyrics exist. The arrangement you’ll hear today is by UU composer, conductor and author Nick Page (b. 1952).

“Autumn of Kyoto” is a 2014 piece for solo piano by Japanese composer Ryuji Kunimatsu (b. 1977). The historical capital city of Japan, Kyoto is famous for its stunning fall foliage, which peaks in mid- to late November each year. Kunimatsu, himself a native of Kyoto, is well-known internationally as a guitarist and primarily composes for that instrument.

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Ernest Bloch (1880-1959) was a composer and music educator primarily known for his orchestral and chamber music. Bloch moved to the United States in 1916 and became the first musical director of the Cleveland Institute of Music upon the founding of the school in 1920. His *Six Preludes for Organ* were first published in 1948. You are hearing the second movement of this work today, which Bloch dedicated to renowned American organist, composer, and musicologist Tracy Y. Cannon (1879-1961).

A native of North Carolina, Joseph Martin (b. 1959) is a prominent American pianist and composer. His major works include nearly 40 choral cantatas and *Song of Wisdom*, a choral tone poem based on the best-selling children's book Old Turtle. “The Journey” is an arrangement that incorporates and combines melodies from the Shaker hymn “Simple Gifts” and the “Going Home” theme from the second movement of the *New World Symphony* by the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak (1840-1904).

**Coming Soon:** Our service musicians next Sunday, November 24th will be the YoUUth Choir and UUCC Pianist Karin Tooley.