

# A New Mass is Created!

I am thrilled to announce that starting this month, we will be singing a new congregational mass written especially for us. A couple years ago while I was choosing new mass parts for the change of liturgical season, I was struck by how few congregational masses exist by female composers. This made me think of parishes that want to program diverse music by under-represented composers but don't have the musical resources we are blessed with here at Christ Church. The seed was planted and I went to work. I emailed my friend, Sarah MacDonald, a well-respected composer living in England, inquiring if she would accept a commission to write a new mass. She graciously accepted.

Fast forward to this last summer. I was at a conference talking with my friend, Beckie Davy, who is Director of Music at Bruton Parish in Colonial Williamsburg, about this very topic. Beckie said Bruton would be happy to co-commission this mass. With many emails back and forth since then, *The Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* was delivered to us on December 17th.

The *Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* is a full congregational mass, with nine different settings for the various the liturgical seasons. This also means we get to sing it for multiple Sundays, not just a one and done scenario. Both us and Bruton Parish will start singing this mass on January 18th. While the mass is unpublished at the moment, it will be published at a later date.

Friends, this is a gift to the entire church, not just us. The *Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* is a way for us to keep the church her music alive. I hope you enjoy the mass while beaming with pride knowing your church commissioned this piece.

Woohoo!

Mario Buchanan

## The Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass

*for unison congregational singing with organ (or piano)  
and optional choir descant*

MUSIC BY SARAH MACDONALD

SARAH MACDONALD is a Canadian-born conductor, organist, pianist, and composer, living in the UK, and she holds the positions of Fellow and Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge and Director of the Girl Choristers at Ely Cathedral. She has been at Selwyn since 1999, and was the first woman to hold such a post in an Oxbridge Chapel. Sarah has played numerous recitals and conducted choirs throughout the UK, North America, the Middle East, New Zealand, and much of mainland Europe. She has had over 50 choral and organ compositions published in the UK, Canada, and the States, and she is series editor for The Sarah MacDonald Choral Series with Selah Publishing in Pittsburgh. Her liturgical music is performed regularly throughout the world, and recent commissions include pieces for RSCM and Oxford University Press anthologies.

She is a Patron of the Society of Women Organists, an Honorary Patron of the Herbert Howells Society, and President of the School Organists' Association. In 2018 Sarah received the honorary ARSCM in recognition of her contribution to choral music in the UK and Canada, and the citation made particular mention of her support of contemporary British composers. She was recently appointed University Organist at Cambridge, and is the first woman to hold that prestigious ceremonial role, which dates back to 1670. In her spare time Sarah is a keen amateur photographer.

