



SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

of S A N F R A N C I S C O

Promoting Spiritual Growth through the Arts, Theology, Fellowship, and Service

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION SERVICE

October 10, 2021

(Note: * means "Stand as you are able")

Prelude

Prelude to Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor

BY J. S. BACH

Alex Kelly, guest musician

Contemplation III

Meditation with Gong

***Greetings & Announcements**

Silent Meditation /Deep Prayer

Wise Words from John Gaul

Mindful Offering

Opening of the Holy Word

Blessings

Contemplation I

Postlude

Song 17

BY ALEX KELLY

Meditation with Music

Improvised Meditation in D minor



A Listening: Scripture Readings

Exodus 7:8-13; Matthew 12:38-42

We invite you to sign our guest book and to join us for refreshments and fellowship in the parish house after the service. Please turn off your cell phone, and may we suggest that you take infants or toddlers to our childcare before the worship service begins, or if they become vocal or active during the service. Thank you.

Time for Children

Contemplation II

Reflection with Music

Scattered Leaves

BY ALEX KELLY

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READINGS

From The Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg: *Arcana Coelestia* #7290

[2] But miracles are not done among those who are in internal worship, that is, in charity and faith, because to these they are hurtful, for miracles compel belief, and what is compelled does not remain, but is dissipated. The inward things of worship, which are faith and charity, must be implanted in freedom, for then they are appropriated, and what is so appropriated remains; whereas that which is implanted in compulsion, remains outside the internal man in the external, because nothing enters into the internal man except by means of intellectual ideas, which are reasons; for the ground which there receives is an enlightened rational. Hence it is that no miracles are wrought at this day. That they would be hurtful, can be seen from what has been said; for they drive men to believe, and fix their ideas in the external man that the case is so; and if the internal man afterward denies that which the miracles have confirmed, there results an opposition and collision of the internal and external man; and finally when the ideas derived from miracles are dissipated, there is effected a conjunction of falsity and truth, and thus a profanation. From this it is evident how injurious at the present day are miracles in a church in which the inward things of worship have been disclosed. These moreover are the things signified by the Lord's words to Thomas: Because thou hast seen Me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they who see not, and believe (John 20:29); thus they are blessed who do not believe through miracles. [3] But miracles are not injurious to those who are in external worship without internal, for with such there can be no opposition of the internal and external man, thus no collision, consequently no profanation. That miracles do not contribute anything to faith, may be sufficiently evident from the miracles wrought among the people of Israel in Egypt, and in the wilderness, in that they had no effect at all upon them. Although that people had recently seen so many miracles in Egypt, and afterward the sea Suph divided, and the Egyptians sunk therein; the pillar of a cloud going before them by day, and the pillar of fire by night; the manna daily raining down from heaven and although they saw Mount Sinai smoking, and heard Jehovah speaking thence, besides other miracles, nevertheless in the midst of such things they fell away from all faith, and from the worship of Jehovah to the worship of a calf (Exod. 32); from which it is plain what is the effect of miracles.

Exodus 7:8-13

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘When Pharaoh says to you, “Perform a wonder”, then you shall say to Aaron, “Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake.”’ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff, and they became snakes; but Aaron’s staff swallowed up theirs. Still Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said..

Matthew 12:38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.’ But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!’

Changes in Worship Music Program

Though we've said goodbye to our former music director Joantahn Dimmock, we are excited to welcome new and familiar faces and voices into our music program. The coming year will be a time of experimentation to find what kind of music, both in sound and structure, is most suitable for our worship services. With leadership from Rev. Lee, Heather Garland - who you will recognize from our virtual services - will be acting as our song leader and soloist along with a variety of guest musicians. We would also like to encourage members and friends to participate in this period of congregationally-led worship music. If you are interested in singing as part of a choir, playing an instrument, or have a song or hymn suggestions, please reach out to us!