St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church

Middlebury, Vermont

12:15 PM, April 2, 2015

Maundy Thursday

Organ Recital: George Matthew Jr., organist

*Orgelgebet* (Organ Prayers)

1. Chorale Prelude: *Valet will ich dir geben* J. S. Bach

(1685 – 1750)

1. Chorale Prelude: *Valet will ich dir geben*  Sigfrid Karg-Elert

(1877 – 1933)

1. Chorale Prelude: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* Sigfrid Karg-Elert
2. Chorale Prelude: *Herzliebster Jesu* Sigfrid Karg-Elert
3. Prelude and Fugue on a Polish Hymn Józef Surzyński

*Jesu konajacy* – The dying Jesus (1851 – 1919)

1. *Lux Aeterna* Egil Hovland, 1989

(1924 – 2013)

Program Notes

*Valet will ich dir geben* (#154 in the 1982 Hymnal) appears at different times and in different hymnals as a Palm Sunday, Good Friday and even Advent hymn. In Bach’s setting, the tune strides majestically through the bass while vigorous counterpoint, perhaps suggesting a joyous crowd, sparkles over the manuals.

Sigfrid Karg-Elert’s first musical experience was as a chorister at St. Johns’ Church, Leipzig. At age twelve he wrote several motets and a cantata, which were performed there. Early on he wrote a piano concerto and was admired and encouraged by Busoni and Grieg, but his greatest achievements were his 100 works for harmonium and 250 for organ. His setting of *Valet will ich dir geben* is much quieter than Bach’s, with the theme appearing in different voices and often canonically. This is true of his settings of *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* (#169) and *Herzliebster Jesu* (#158), the latter in the style of Heinrich Schuetz, in five parts.

Born in Śrem, Poland, Józef Surzyński studied music in Leipzig and Münster and theology in Rome. In 1883 he founded the St. Adalbert Society for the Advancement of Church Music. He edited the standard work *Monumenta musica sacrae in Polonia* and was singled out for distinction by Pope Leo XIII in 1903.

Egil Hovland was born in Oslo and was active in both the US (winning the Koussevitsky prize in 1957) and in Norway, where he brought about a revival of Norwegian sacred music, particularly Gregorian Chant.

*Orgelgebet* concludes with Hovland’s organ work, Eternal Light.