

## From The Tower

### March 2020

#### Fauré Requiem

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> the choir will sing a select movement from Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*. A forum on the Fauré *Requiem* will be offered in the Parish Hall at the conclusion of the March 22<sup>nd</sup> service. The forum is an opportunity to experience and grow into a deeper understanding of this wonderful composition with both historical and musical anecdotes that highlight the form, texture, and color that impact the visceral emotional responses we have. The choir will be an integral partner in this forum. The entire Fauré *Requiem* will be presented on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 am service. The presentation of a complete *Requiem* a week prior to Palm Sunday is a significant part of what the choir prepares after the Advent Concert. There will be an outstanding group of instrumentalists joining the choir at the March 29<sup>th</sup> service.

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) began his *Requiem* in 1887. Its first incarnation was a five-movement work and was first performed in 1888. By 1890, Fauré added two more movements and it became the final seven-movement work we will present. This second version received its premier in 1893. There have been numerous changes to the orchestration including a scoring for full orchestra, which was premiered in 1900. The Fauré *Requiem* (1893 version) will feature our combined choirs, baritone soloist Anthony Alberti, and soprano soloist Anastasia Swope.

This text of this *Requiem* is predominantly taken from the Mass for the Dead (*Missa pro defunctis*). There are two movements, "Libera me" and "In paradisum" whose texts come from the Order of Burial. What is significant about these details is that Fauré very deliberately avoided some of the more violent and troubling texts. His *Requiem* is arguably the first setting of a *Requiem* that expresses a gentler, more lyrical expression of death. Fauré had played organ for countless funeral services and wanted to write something that was different and escape what would have been considered a more proper setting. The concept of a more positive, lyrical depiction of death influenced many contemporary composers.

The harmonic palette of the Fauré *Requiem* is both centered in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic Period, with a strong use of chromaticism, but also garners trends which became highly influential with early Impressionism as personified by Claude Debussy, and a generation later with Maurice Ravel and, by extension, Jazz harmony.

Please invite your family and friends to this special musical offering on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 am service. Thank you!

Garah Landes