

NEWS RELEASE

First Congregational Church

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For Immediate Release

Vestry Adult Choir Performs Annual Spring Concert “The Promise of Living” on March 11, 2018 at 4pm

Crystal Lake, IL – The First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake presents its annual Spring Concert, “The Promise of Living” on Sunday, March 11 at 4pm, featuring FCC’s 55-member Vestry Adult Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra under the leadership team of Ann Tucker, Director of Music, and Barbara Thorsen, Organist.

Vestry Choir’s centerpiece work for this concert is “Requiem for the Living” composed by Dan Forrest (b.1978). Written in 2013, the work showcases Dan Forrest’s gift for composition, which has been described as “superb writing. . . full of spine-tingling moments” by the *Salt Lake Tribune* and “magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture” by the *Classical Voice*. His music has sold millions of copies and is well established in the repertoire of choirs in the United States and around the world. This work in particular has already had its New York premiere at Carnegie Hall in January 2014. A Requiem, at its core, is a prayer for rest, traditionally for the deceased. The five movements of *Requiem for the Living* form a narrative just as much for the living and their own struggle with pain and sorrow, as for the dead. It is full of beauty, peace and hope; one of the movements, “Sanctus”, offers sonic allusions to glimpses of the “heavens and earth” inspired by images of space from the Hubble Telescope and International Space Station.

The Vestry Choir will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble made up of area professional, amateur and student musicians including: Violins/Violas: Pam Becker (Crystal Lake), Lisa Chodorowski (Woodstock) Janet Kvam-Holub (Woodstock), Regina Leslie (Berwyn), Sara Prather (Crystal Lake), Kristin Rock (Crystal Lake), Cathy Schmidt (Crystal Lake), Tom Vos (Crystal Lake); Cello: Mark Kuntz (Elgin), Alexi Hagedorn (Crystal Lake); String Bass: George Hillstrom (Pittsburgh/Crystal Lake). Casey Sukel (Arlington Heights) will play flute, Shawna Lake (Cary), oboe; Ryan Sindberg (Oakwood Hills), French Horn; Brittany Smith (Barrington), Harp; and Matt Potts (Woodstock), Percussion. and organist is Barb Thorsen, will accompany.

Soloists for the *Requiem for the Living* are sopranos and FCC members Toni Gambini and Jennifer Streit, as well as Crystal Lake sixth grader, Luke Tyndall.

Additional selections programmed on this concert include: Aaron Copland's "Promise of Living" from *The Tender Land*, "Hold to God's Unchangin' Hand" arranged by Paul Halley with Tom Vos (Crystal Lake), soloist and a beautiful arrangement by Craig Hella Johnson of "What a Wonderful World" featuring Bob Rosulek (Crystal Lake) and Pam Hanson (Lake in the Hills) as soloists.

For more information, call the church office at 815-459-6010 or visit fcc-cl.org. The public is invited to attend this free concert; a free-will offering will be received. Childcare will be available. Doors will open at 3:30pm for the 4pm concert. Come early to get a seat! First Congregational Church is handicapped accessible.