

March 2026

Christian Hymns and Hymnody: Part 2—Early Latin Hymns

By John-Peter Ford

Latin Hymnody spans the time of the Middle Ages to the Protestant Reformation (400–1400 AD), and consists of the largest body of Christian hymnody, although many records are nonextant. Although thousands of hymns were written for singing by monks and nuns in the middle ages, most of these hymns were unavailable until scholars and poets translated them into English in the 19th century. We only sing a few of these hymns from these early years.

Beginning with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, Christianity was now tolerated, and even championed, in the Roman Empire. Born in c. 337, Ambrose, Bishop of Milan is considered the “Father of the Latin Hymn.” He introduced accessible, rhymed, and metered poetry for congregational singing to hymns. His style has come to be known as Ambrosian. He is also credited with introducing antiphonal congregational singing in the Western church to encourage the Milanese congregation by singing to each other during times of intense persecution.



These hymns were written in symmetrical form with several stanzas – each containing four lines of iambic dimeter. Each line contained eight syllables of text, which established the long meter hymn form that became one of the three basic hymnic meters for future hymnody (8.8.8.8).

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413) was the most prolific and significant hymn writer following Ambrose. Born in Spain, he retired from a law career in his 50s and then turned to writing sacred verse. One of his most popular hymns still in use today is *Corde natus ex parentis* (Of the Father’s love begotten).

Theoduloh, Bishop of Orleans (ca. 760–821) established schools in monasteries and cathedrals for training clergy, but also in towns and villages for the poor. He set the account of Jesus’ triumphant entry as recorded in Mark 11:1-10 and John 12:12-19: *Gloria, laus et honor* (All Glory, Laud, and Honor). This hymn has ever since been associated with Palm Sunday Processionals. Theoduloh served as an intellectual in the court of Charlemagne and was accused of conspiring against Louis I, the son and successor of Charlemagne. Theoduloh spent his last years in prison and supposedly wrote this hymn there.

The story goes that Louis I evidently heard the song while riding past the prison and was so impressed that he let Theodulph go free!

By the Twelfth Century the Canonical hours of the Catholic Church had been established, which produced a fertile ground for hymns with the Benedictine order leading the charge in hymn writing. During the Thirteenth Century The Dominican and Franciscan orders evolved out of reforms to the Church and gave rise to St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) who wrote “All Creatures of Our God and King.”

Latin song was created by a church among many cultures, but in a culture of Greek musical thought, “music for good and bad.” Clement of Alexandria (150-215), an early Christian theologian, proposed the idea of “Christ as the New Song.” There is a connection between music and morals in Clement’s concept. His theology of sacred music sought to reject all complex music in favor of unity and harmony – unison singing, which displays the unity of Christians under one Christ.



Session Meeting Highlights

February 2026

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Financial update on page 3.

Christian Ed

Sunday School Room was sorted through and cleaned up. More updates to come.

Nominating

Elder nomination will commence soon. Meeting TDA

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MISSION

St. Francis House—Next meal will be Friday, April 17th

Family Promise— Annual Bed Race is planned for March 21, 2026

Rural Women's Health Project, - continuing to collect baby items in Narthex

Directory Updates: will be seeking updated info and pictures this spring.

Joined in cleaning out Sunday School Room and thankful for so many helping hands.

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering during lent Flyers in bulletins.

Next meeting: March 10th at 11am in Office Conference Room.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONEL

Still hoping to hire a new nursery worker.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Committee Chair, Karen Russ reported an uplifting Ash Wednesday Service

Capella Nova Choir presents their Spring Concert at Grace on 4/18/26 at 4PM

Possible American Guild Organist concert– To be determined.

Holy Week starts March 29th with Palm Sunday– April 5th with Easter Sunday

Communion 3/1/26

Next meeting: February, Sunday 3/15/26

PROPERTY & OPERATIONS

Jared fixed a leak in the plumbing behind the wall in Classroom D, Gia Gelpi's studio, replaced the drywall and replaced the child-sized toilet with a normal-sized toilet.

Money was donated for painting and installing new carpet in the nursery.

More cleaning out items from Sunday School room and organization of the flowers.

Next Session Meeting: Sunday, March 22nd, 2026 following Worship in the Church Office's Conference Room.

Financial Update

For it is in Giving That We Receive

Ways to Support Grace Presbyterian Church:

1. Mail a check to the church office.
2. Use your bank's online bill pay system.
3. Use the electronic funds transfer from your savings or checking account.
4. Use a debit/credit card at the link on our website under the giving tab (there is also an image that you can click).

MARCH 2026

Grace Presbyterian Church
3146 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: 352-376-5654
Email: office@gpconline.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.GPCONLINE.ORG

The finance committee would like to keep the congregation informed about our General Fund income and expenses and our pass through donations. If you have any questions, contact Lois Butler at 352-262-5893 or treasurer@gpconline.org.

	January	Through January 31st
Income	\$17,029.22	\$17,029.22
Expenses	\$15,069.18	\$15,069.18
Pass Through Donations		
Hearts and Hands Offering	\$ 53.34	\$53.34

Support GPC's Choral Scholar!

—Michael Lim—

Voice Recital

Friday, March 6th,
7:20 PM,

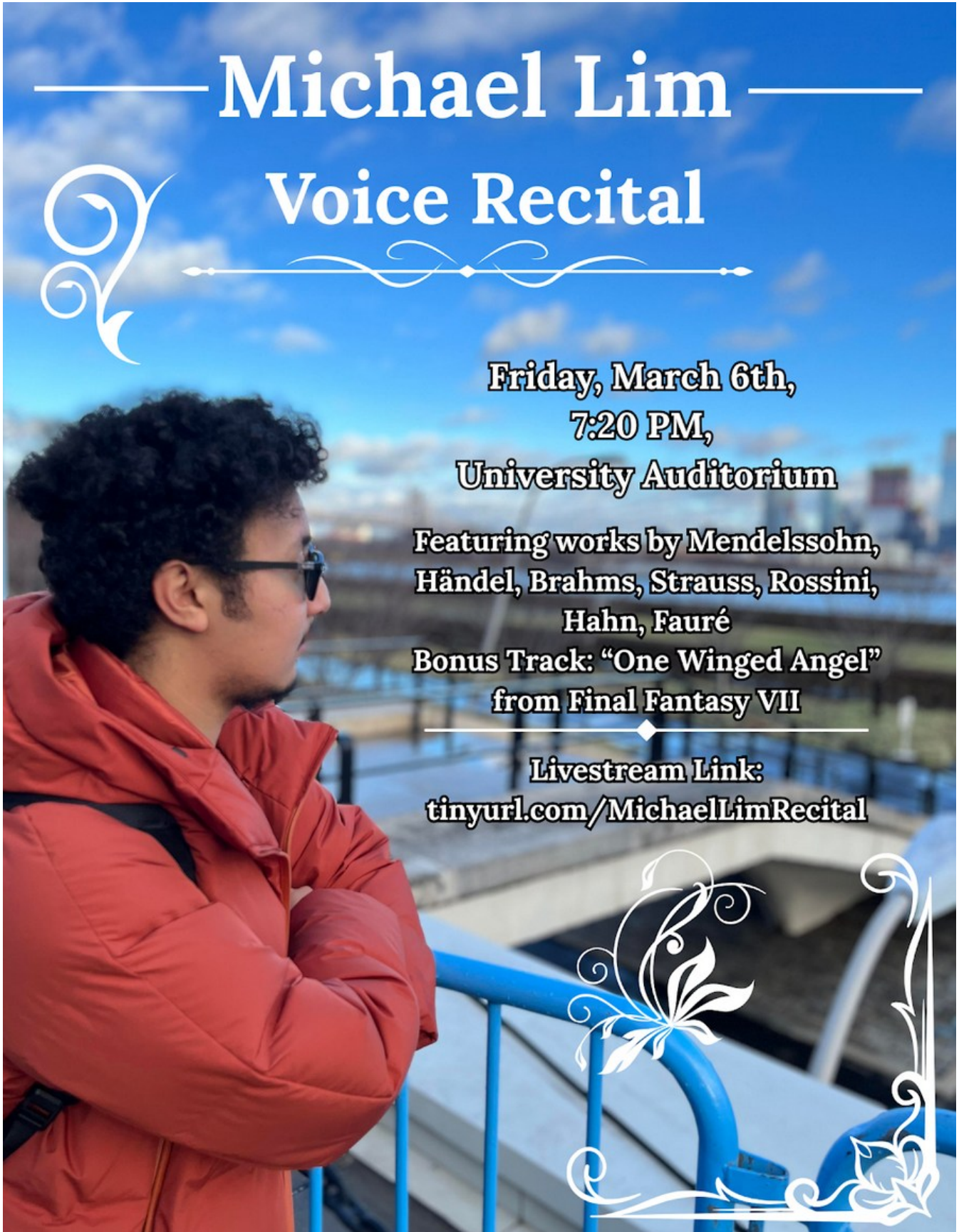
University Auditorium

Featuring works by Mendelssohn,
Händel, Brahms, Strauss, Rossini,
Hahn, Fauré

Bonus Track: "One Winged Angel"
from Final Fantasy VII

Livestream Link:

tinyurl.com/MichaelLimRecital



Prayer Requests

Please join us in lifting up prayers for those who have immediate concerns:

Karen Russ and her family
John-Peter Ford's family and friends effected by the winter storm in Mississippi
Kimberly Cundiff
Holly Durst, Lois Buttler's sister
Jerry Butler's Family
Our new friend Whitney with terrible back pain.
Karen Upton, Larry Green's mother
Hannah Luciano's Family on the passing of her brother, Timothy.
Faye Tripp's daughter, Holly

Also pray for those with longer term needs:

April Riley
Mary Williamson
Patsy Bellis
Amanda Totillo
Annette McGee
Kathy Franks
Charlie Evens
Donna Fidler
Lonnie Stevens;
Donna Fidler
Janine Groner
Billie Jean Jones
Our Military
First responders

The safety & protection of those living in areas affected by war, may they be shielded from harm & violence; for the world leaders; and those dealing with natural disasters. In addition, pray for those in our church family and our church.

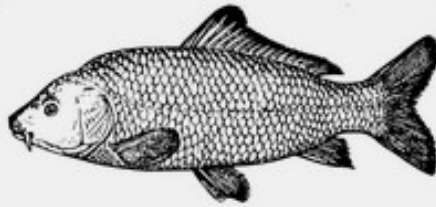
If there are other people or concerns that you would like to add or delete from this list, please contact Lois Butler by phone at 352-262-5893 or by email at rickloang@yahoo.com or Hannah Luciano by email at kooiha01@gmail.com



The Worship Committee reminds church members and friends that the 2026 Flower Calendar is posted in the narthex. Fresh floral arrangements are \$35 and you may place your name on any selected date of your choosing. Please note that roses added to your arrangement are in addition to the \$35.00 and are \$5.00 each.



MONTGOMERY CENTER



FISH FRY

— ♦ FRIDAYS ♦ —

JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL
LENTEN FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 20 FRIDAYS
- MARCH 27 4:30-7:30

Fish or Shrimp Basket \$12

Fish and Shrimp Basket \$15

Fish Meal Deal \$18

Fish & Shrimp Meal Deal \$24

Kid's Meal (10& under) \$8



**MONTGOMERY
CENTER**
EST. 1957



88 SE 75th St Starke, FL | 352-473-4516

YIPPEE!

JOIN IN THE FUN
AND HELP YOUR
LOCAL COMMUNITY!



 FamilyPromise
of Gainesville

BEDRACE

2026

SATURDAY,
MARCH 21ST
10AM

UNITED TRINITY
METHODIST CHURCH
4000 NW 53RD AVENUE
GAINESVILLE, FL 32653

Mid-Week Bible Study



On the **1st and 3rd Thursday on 3/5 and 3/19 from 6pm - 7:30pm.** We will meet via zoom. If you're interested in joining us, you will need the link. For security reasons we won't publish the link, so please contact Larry at (larry@gainesvillecounselingcenter.com) and he will send you the link. Mark off **4/2** and **4/16**. If you can't join, we will record the study so you can view it later.

Bible & Brew

Join Larry for Bible & Brew the **2nd & 4th Thursday (3/12 & 3/26) in from 7-8:30 pm** at the **University Club** (18 E. University Ave.). All are welcome to join us in an open conversation and relaxed environment. Topics will be decided closer to the date. Please contact Larry if you have any questions. Mark off **4/9 & 4/23 for next month's B&B.**



\$1 FUND OFFERING

Our \$1 Fund Offering for the month of **January-March** will go to **Family Promise**.

GRACE - GIVING AND SHARING MISSION

Grace - Giving and Sharing Mission is a food and household item collection benefiting the **Bread of the Mighty Food Bank**. For the month of **March** we will be collecting Pasta Noodles and Pasta Sauce



ELDERS ON

Elders on Call
for March are:

Faye Tripp— 904-307-4082

Lois Butler— 352-262-5893

Two elders volunteer to be on call to help church members and friends who may need assistance when the church office is closed.

Our Daily Bread booklets for March are available in the narthex. If you would like one mailed, please contact Hannah at 701-955-4497.



Men's Noon Lunch & Fellowship

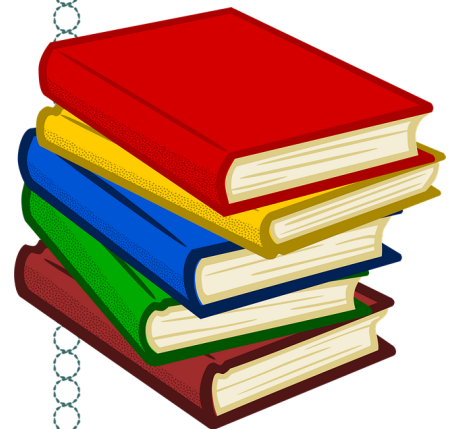


The men of the church are invited to meet each Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the library for fellowship. Please bring your own brown bag lunch, beverages will be provided.

Circle News

The Anna Circle will meet February 3rd and March 10th in the Library at Noon.

This session will be Parables by John Mac-Arther. Chapter 6 will be this month's discussion.



MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship— Communion Sunday 7:00-ESWT(AA)	2 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	3 7:00 pm— Barbergators	4 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	5 6:00 pm—Mid- Week Bible Study via Zoom Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gaines- ville Harmony Show Chorus	6 4:30-7:30 Camp Montgomery Fish Fry Friday— @Camp Mont- gomery	7
8 9:45-Choir 11:00 Worship 2 pm-Girl Scouts 7:00-ESWT(AA)	9 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	10 11:00 AM Con- gregational Life & Mission Committee 12:00 pm— Anna Circle 7:00 pm— Barbergators	11 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous	12 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	13 4:30-7:30 Camp Montgomery Fish Fry Friday— @Camp Mont- gomery	14
15 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Worship Com- mittee 7:00-ESWT(AA)	16 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	17 7:00 pm— Barbergators	18 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	19 6:00 pm—Mid- Week Bible Study via Zoom (contact Larry for Link) Girl Scouts	20 4:30-7:30 Camp Montgomery Fish Fry Friday— @Camp Mont- gomery	21
22 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Session Meet- ing 7:00-ESWT(AA)	23 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	24 7:00 pm— Barbergators	25 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch	26 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	27 4:30-7:30 Camp Montgomery Fish Fry Friday— @Camp Mont- gomery	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Session Meeting 7:00-ESWT(AA)	30 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	31 7:00 pm— Barbergators				

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	2 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm—Mid-Week Bible Study via Zoom Girl Scouts	3	4
5 Easter Sunday Communion 9:45-Choir 11:00 Worship 2 pm-Girl Scouts 7:00-ESWT(AA)	6 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	7 7:00 pm—Barbergators	8 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous	9 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show	10	11
12 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship 7:00-ESWT(AA)	13 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	14 11:00 AM Congregational Life & Mission Committee Noon: Anna Circle 7:00 pm Barbergators 6:30-9pm Capella Nova	15 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch 5-6:30 pm— OE Anonymous 7:00 pm— ESWT (AA)	16 6:00 pm—Mid-Week Bible Study via Zoom (contact Larry for Link) Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus	17 6:30-8pm Capella Nova Dress Rehearsal	18 4:00pm Capella Nova Spring Concert
19 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Worship Committee 7:00-ESWT(AA)	20 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	21 7:00 pm—Barbergators	22 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch	23 7:00 pm—Bible & Brew at "University Club" Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gaines-	24	25
26 9:45-Choir 11:00- Worship Session Meeting 7:00-ESWT(AA)	27 4:00 pm-Square Dancing Group	28 7:00 pm—Barbergators	29 12:00 pm— Men's Lunch	30 Girl Scouts 6:30pm— Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus		