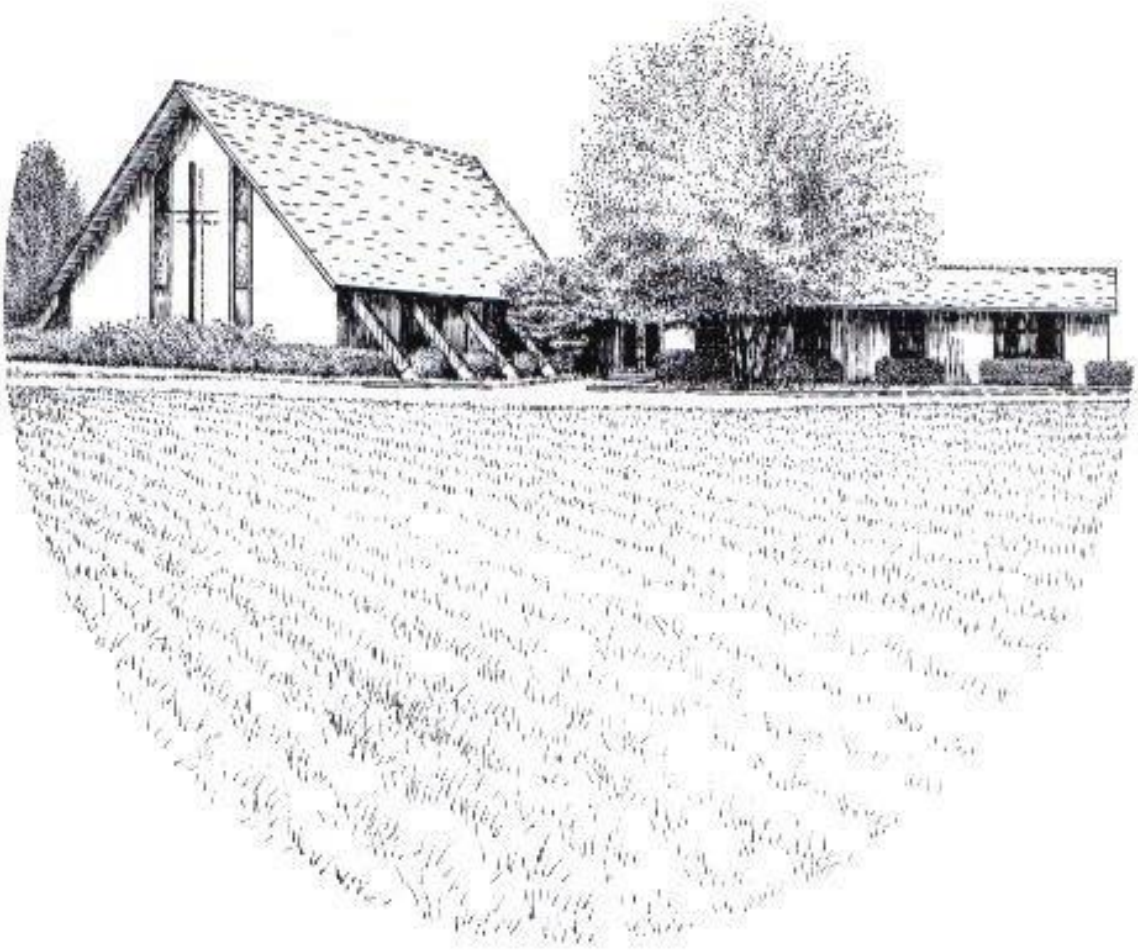
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Shawnee, Kansas



Organ Concert

Thursday September 10, 2026 7 p.m.

Dr. Jan Kraybill, DMA, FAGO

"From Generation to Generation"

Tonight's concert celebrates memories, knowledge, and faith passed from generation to generation. Music has the power to draw us together, giving voice to our shared journey and inspiring us to create a future with renewed optimism.

Fugue in D Major
BWV 532
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Pedal exercitium
BWV 598
Carl Phillip Emmanuel Bach
(1714-1788)

Go Down, Moses
Fela Sowande
(1905-1987)

Intermezzo on an Irish Air ("Danny Boy")
Op. 189, No. 4
Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

Variations and Fugue on "Heil dir im Siegerkranz"
("My Country 'Tis of Thee")
Max Reger
(1886-1971)

Our Father: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer
Op. 77
Geoffrey Wilcken
(b. 1972)

0. Prelude: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
1. Our Father who art in heaven
2. Hallowed be Thy name
3. Thy kingdom come
4. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
5. Give us this day our daily bread
6. And forgive us our trespasses
7. And lead us not into temptation
8. But deliver us from evil
9. Amen!

The Dialogue of the Mockingbirds
Op. 68c
Rachel Laurin
(1961-2023)

Finale from Sonata-Symphony
No. 1 for Organ, Op. 42
Félix-Alexandre Guilmant
(1873-1911)

PROGRAM NOTES:

Fugue in D Major, BWV 532b, by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
In Germany from the 16th through the 19th centuries, the Bach family name was practically synonymous with the word musician. Generations of Bachs served as fiddlers, town musicians, church musicians, court musicians, and composers. The best-known of the many generations of Bachs, Johann Sebastian, composed this Fugue in D Major around 1709, when he was a court musician at the castle of Duke Wilhelm Ernst in Weimar, Germany. It is an explosion of creativity based on one simple musical idea, with a dose of humor, and is equally demanding for both hands and feet.

Pedal exercitium (BWV 598), attr. J.S. Bach, Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach (1714–1788)
It is unclear who composed this short but challenging Pedal exercitium (pedal study). J.S. may have written it for his son, Carl Philipp Emmanuel, or it may have been written by C.P.E. himself.

Go Down, Moses, by Fela Sowande (1905–1987)
For generations, children have been taught Biblical stories through music. The well-known African-American spiritual "Go Down, Moses," tells the story of the Israelites under the tyranny of the Egyptian King, Pharoah, and is a source of hope and inspiration for generations of oppressed people. Fela Sowande's setting for organ uses various musical moods to depict different aspects of Moses' mission, and it ends triumphantly, signifying the victorious exodus to the Promised Land. Sowande was born near Lagos, Nigeria, into the Yorùbá tribe. He studied at the University of London and Trinity College of Music, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists—the first African to do so—while also performing as a theatre organist, dance pianist, bandleader, duo pianist with Fats Waller, and Hammond artist, playing pop tunes in London pubs and concert halls. Most of his organ compositions date from his time as organist and choirmaster at the West London Mission of the Methodist Church, where he served from 1945 to 1952. He toured the U.S., performing and presenting lectures on Yorùbá folklore, religion, and oral history, and held faculty positions at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ibadan, Howard University in Washington, D.C., the University of Pittsburgh, and Kent State University. He became a U.S. citizen in 1977.

Intermezzo on an Irish Air, Op. 189, No. 4, by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)
Music can help us commemorate and heal. In 1913, a British lawyer and author, Frederic Edward Weatherly, wrote a new poem, "Danny Boy," for an anonymous Irish folk tune. His intent was to bring together Irish Unionists and Nationalists with his words. The result became very popular, and the song has since become a well-loved expression of yearning for peaceful times. Sir Charles Villiers Stanford was an Irish composer, teacher, and conductor, one of the founding professors of the Royal College of Music in London, and a professor at Cambridge University.

Variations and Fugue on "Heil dir im Siegerkranz" by Max Reger (1886–1971)
Johann Baptist Joseph Maximillian Reger was a German performer, conductor, and teacher, most notably at the Royal Conservatory in Leipzig and in the court of Duke Georg II of Saxe-Meiningen. Despite the German title of this piece, U.S. audiences easily recognize the melody upon which it is based. In fact, the tune is labelled as AMERICA in many hymnals here; it was sung at George Washington's inauguration. But citizens of many other countries also identify with this melody. Reger wrote his Variations and Fugue based on it in 1901 to honor England's Queen Victoria, who had just died. Her subjects knew the tune as "God Save the Queen." Reger's fellow citizens in Germany recognized it as their national anthem until 1918. It was Prussia's anthem beginning as early as 1795. In addition to these, the list of countries which have promoted their own national unity with this tune literally spans from A to Z: the current or former nations of Australia, Barbados, Bavaria, Canada, Greece, Iceland, Imperial Russia, Jamaica, the Kingdom of Hawaii, Liechtenstein, New Zealand,

Northern Ireland, Norway, Rhodesia, Saxony, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tuvalu, Wales, and Zimbabwe. No one knows who originally composed the tune, or when. Nearly 150 classical composers, including Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, Liszt, Debussy, Rossini, Verdi, Elgar, and Britten, have used it in their compositions. So, when we in the U.S. hear or sing our beloved "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," we should remember that the anonymous tune we sing actually has no country at all—or, perhaps more appropriately, it is a common ground we share with many of the Earth's peoples.

Our Father: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer, Op. 77, by Geoffrey Wilcken (b. 1972)
Wilcken is a composer, conductor, and keyboard musician based in Kansas City. His many award-winning compositions include much choral music, as well as pieces for large and small instrumental classical and jazz ensembles. He earned a bachelor's degree in composition from Iowa State University and doctorate and master's degrees in composition and choral conducting from the University of Kansas. He is currently organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City and a staff accompanist at Kansas City Kansas Community College. His partita (set of variations) on "Our Father," written in 2020, is based on the hymn *Vater unser im Himmelreich,* the text of which was written by Martin Luther (1483–1546). Wilcken writes, "This partita addresses each verse of Luther's chorale paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, using the melody created for that paraphrase in Valentin Schumann's *Geistliche Lieder,* one of the first important hymn collections published for the German parishes who embraced the Reformation. The chorale text reflects Luther's catechetical and pastoral approach to the petitions of the prayer, and shows his philosophy of hymnody: that the songs should help to teach the common people essential points of the faith in a simple, memorable way. Each verse connects its line of the Biblical prayer directly to the real concerns and trials of daily life. They are not abstract or theoretical, but abundantly and joyously practical." Each of the short variations uses the chorale melody in a different way, and each "is meant to have its own distinctive voice, responding to the content of the text."

The Dialogue of the Mockingbirds, Op. 68c, by Rachel Laurin (1961–2023)
The Canadian composer Rachel Laurin studied at the Conservatory of Music in Montreal, then served as organist of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal and later Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa, Ontario. She wrote hundreds of works, winning many awards. In 2006 she devoted herself full-time to composing, performing, and educating. Her highly creative voice among us ended too soon; she died from cancer in August 2023, just two days after her 62nd birthday. Laurin's "The Dialogue of the Mockingbirds," composed in 2016, invites us to imagine two mockingbirds in conversation. Laurin also included some musicians' humor—you may hear the mockingbirds imitating us!

Sonata-Symphony No. 1 for Organ, Op. 42, by Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)
The French organist, composer, teacher, and church musician Félix-Alexandre Guilmant was the first internationally-famous touring virtuoso organist. He performed in Europe, Russia, and North America at a time when travel by ship and train made concert tours arduous. Three tours of the U.S. included recitals at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, concerts across the country in 1897-98, and forty concerts at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. His wide-ranging stylistic choices and cleverly-themed programs were quite popular and helped attract audiences to the organ. 2026 marks the 130th anniversary of his appointment as organ instructor at the Paris Conservatoire, where he taught from 1896 to 1911, and this year is also the 155th anniversary of his first year at Saint-Trinité church in Paris, where he served from 1871 to 1901. Guilmant composed eight organ sonatas during his thirty years at Saint-Trinité. He completed *Sonata No. 1* in 1874, and later created a version of it for organ and orchestra, titled *Symphony No. 1*. The final movement of this large work, simply titled "Final," contrasts virtuosic fast-moving sections with a chorale-like subject and concludes the sonata-symphony in grand style.

ABOUT THE ORGANIST:

20130224 Photo credit: Floyd Gingrich

GRAMMY®-nominated artist Jan Kraybill is a concert organist, pianist, and harpsichordist; a dynamic speaker, educator, church musician, and consultant; and an enthusiastic cheerleader for the power of music to change lives for the better.

In addition to maintaining a very active international concert schedule, Dr. Kraybill is organ conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and organist-in-residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri. In these roles she plays and oversees the care of three of the Kansas City metro area's largest pipe organs: the 113-rank Aeolian-Skinner (installed in 1959) and 102-rank Casavant (1993) at Community of Christ's Auditorium and Temple, and the Kauffman Center's 102-rank Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman Casavant (2012).

Throughout her career Jan has performed as both a solo and collaborative musician, designed and led international hymn festivals, taught workshops on a variety of topics, and inspired audiences and congregations. While in high school in Colby, Kansas, she was invited to play her first European piano recital in Andover, England. Since then, she has performed in many venues in North America and Europe, and in Australia, Russia, South Korea, and Tahiti. Her multiple tours of the United Kingdom have included organ concerts at the grand cathedrals of Chester, Exeter, and St. Paul's in London. In 2015 she designed and led a hymn festival at the International Gathering of Hymn Societies at Cambridge University.

Jan has been a featured artist and teacher at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the American Choral Directors Association, the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and other musicians' organizations, and has been heard on many episodes of American Public Media's national program Pipedreams. She has collaborated with ensembles such as the Bach Aria Soloists, the Phoenix Chorale, Kantorei Denver, the GRAMMY®-winning Kansas City Chorale, the GRAMMY®-nominated Kansas City Symphony and Symphony Chorus, and others.

Several solo CDs and collaborative recordings are available. Jan's first solo CD, Two by 2: Two Organ Symphonies on Two Magnificent Organs, features both of Community of Christ's pipe organs. Rejoice and Remember contains hymn arrangements for piano. The Auditorium Organ: Fifty Years of Excellence celebrated that organ's 50th anniversary in 2009. Solo CDs of the Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman Casavant were released by Reference Recordings in 2014 and 2019: Organ Polychrome features music by French composers, and The Orchestral Organ is a disc of transcriptions. Jan's most recent commercially-available album, Marked for Grace, was produced by ProOrgano and released in June 2021 by Naxos. A collaborative disc with the Kansas City Symphony containing Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony, produced by Reference Recordings, was nominated for a GRAMMY® in 2015. Jan's solo surround-sound disc with Reference, The Orchestral Organ, received three nominations in 2020, including Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

Dr. Kraybill's degrees in music education and piano and organ performance were earned at Kansas State University and the Conservatory of Music and Dance in Kansas City. In 2010 she achieved the distinction of Fellow of the AGO, the highest certification level available for organists. She has served in many local, regional, and national roles in the AGO, The Hymn Society, and the Master Teacher Institute, including Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada. In 2024, The Hymn Society awarded her their highest honor, naming her a Fellow of The Hymn Society (FHS). She is a member of Mensa. Her extra-musical interests include antiquing, lace making, and riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

ABOUT THE ORGAN:

Rodgers Infinity 489

From leading congregational singing to captivating concert hall audiences, Infinity Series organs shine in every environment. With up to 44 external audio channels, this four–manual, pipe-compatible organ is perfect for leading congregational singing, impressing concert audiences as a solo instrument, and elevating ensembles to the new heights.

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