



## ST PAUL'S CHOIR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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**Friday, May 21, 2020 • Volume VI:32**

### GREETINGS, ST PAUL'S CHORISTERS!

It is always a joy and a pleasure to spend time with all of you! We want to hear from you! Send a picture, a video, a poem you've written, a story—you can text or email ([mtrautman@stpaulsenglewood.org](mailto:mtrautman@stpaulsenglewood.org); (732.213.2155) **Be sure to join us Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m**

### TODAY IS ASCENSION DAY

Throughout the scriptures, the number forty designates a period of testing and trial. In the Old Testament, examples include the children of Israel being tested in the wilderness for forty years, and Noah's faith put to the test of forty days and nights of rain. In the New Testament, Jesus' fasting of forty days before he began his public ministry is the basis for our observance of Lent each year. Today is the fortieth day after Easter, and we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord.

In Acts 1:3, we are told of another time of testing, that Jesus "presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during the forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" before miraculously ascending into the heavens in the sight of the apostles. The shock of Jesus' disappearance caused the disciples to enter into a period of intense prayer with members of Jesus' family. As Jesus withdrew his visible presence from that particular place and time so that he could be invisibly present with his followers everywhere and all times, the apostles began the business of forming the church. After the Ascension the eleven chose Matthias as the twelfth apostle and prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter.



*Painting: L'Ascension, James Tissot, 1894 (France) Brooklyn Museum*



### GAIL BLACHE-GILL NEXT WEDNESDAY

Gail Blache-Gill will join us next Wednesday, May 27. Ms. Blache-Gill has toured internationally in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the New York based Living Arts Inc., and with Houston Opera's production of the opera to Europe and South America including Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Brazil. She was a featured soloist for Nelson Mandela's 1991 visit to New York. She has appeared as soloist with the Westminster Choir



at the Spoleto Festival in Italy and Charleston, South Carolina. A gifted recitalist, Ms. Blache-Gill has given recitals in New York, Washington, DC, Florida, New Jersey, Hawaii and Trinidad, West Indies. She conducted us last year at the Choir Festival in Short Hills, and some of our singers joined her choir and orchestra on Palm Sunday in 2019 for their performance of *The Seven Last Words* by Théodore Dubois ([picture on the right](#)). She also conducted at the consecration of Bishop Hughes at NJPAC in September 2019 alongside Mr Trautman. She is inspiring singer, teacher, and conductor—be sure to tune in!

## CHOIR SCHOOL WITH MACK BRANDON

We welcomed our first Zoom Choir School guest last week! Pastor **Mack Brandon** leads Metropolitan AME Zion Church in Ridgewood and is a Professor of Music at Ramapo College. He has an extensive career as a jazz and gospel musician and has performed with many greats including Ben E. King and the Drifters. He led a lively discussion with us on music, education, and values. He made six points for us to examine: purpose, pain, plan, passion, profit, and prayer. Pastor Brandon encouraged the choristers to increase their prayer life and meditation on the Bible to help them make purposeful decisions. Be grateful—start your day with gratitude and thankfulness! *If you would like a recording of this presentation, let Mr. Trautman know via text or email.*



Check out Mack Brandon’s YouTube Channel and hear his music:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRHHUeX3Yqc\\_123A0aqkQUQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRHHUeX3Yqc_123A0aqkQUQ)

Check out Pastor Mack Brandon’s Ministries Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbl6EBav6ZYQpE-2OCXG77A>

## ST PAUL’S CHOIR SCHOOL ON INSTAGRAM

In addition to our website and Facebook account, we now have an Instagram account! Check out the videos and pictures: <https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsings4nj/> —there will be more to come. Follow us on Facebook and at our website, [www.stpauls-choirschool.org](http://www.stpauls-choirschool.org)

### THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

### A CHORISTER’S PRAYER IN QUARANTINE

Bless, O Lord, us thy singers, who once sang within Thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing in our homes, may yet be heard in the world,  
And what is heard in the world, may lead all closer to Thee,  
Until we’re choirs again. AMEN. *(Thanks to Dr. Anne Matlack for this prayer)*