

Service Music
February 12, 2012

Prelude - *Festival Prelude*

Chiming of the Hour - *Westminster Chimes*

Offertory - *The Hand of God* - "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands;..."
Isaiah 49:16a (KJV) "My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." John 10:29-30 (KJV) Several weeks ago, I made the drawing which appears on page two. I had no idea that, weeks later in his sermon, Pastor Jess would use a closed hand to describe the security of the believer in the hand of God. As I saw him use the picture of his hands, I knew what the Offertory theme, music and illustration would be for today. As I looked at my drawing of a hand (which I made from a drawing book called *Master the Art of Drawing* by David Carter), several thoughts came to my mind: We Christians are held firmly in the hands of God; so firmly that nothing can take us out of His hands. God, in His Son Jesus, sometimes grasps us, His little flowers, so tightly that we are crushed in the crucible of suffering so that the aroma of each flower, which is His love in us, will fill the world with its saving fragrance. In the hands of our Bridegroom we rest eternally secure, both now and in that world where the blissful love of our Saviour will never cease — truly *saecula saeculorum*, world without end.

Our eternal security and rest in the hands of God is most beautifully shown in *Psalms 23*. I will play improvisations of two hymn tunes to which metrical versions of *Psalms 23* are set.

- I. *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* - See page 50 in the Hymnal for the text and tune.*
- II. *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*** - The last verse of this metrical setting of *Psalms 23* by Isaac Watts expresses the joy of eternal rest and security in God:

*There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger or a guest,
But like a child at home.*

*Tune from *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

**Tune *Resignation*, American folk melody

