

NOTES ON OUR RECESSIONAL HYMN

The stirring text of our recessional hymn, *Rise, O Church Like Christ Arisen*, was written by Susan Palo Cherwien, a Finish-American Lutheran poet born in 1953 in Ashtabula, Ohio. She died in 2023 of metastatic uterine cancer in her home in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Her poems, which have become hymn texts and reflections, are truly treasures for our church. Seven years ago, she and her husband, the renowned organist and composer, David Cherwien, attended Calvary's organ dedication on Oct. 27, 2018.

This morning, Debbie is playing selections from David's compositions on the hymn's tune named "Surge Ecclesia" (*Latin*, "Rise Church").

Timothy Strand, Director of Music at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, composed "Surge Ecclesia". Interestingly, "Rise, O Church" was the title of Gloria Dei's campaign to raise funds for their new 56 rank Casavant pipe organ, dedicated on April 23, 2023. Tim's music wedded to Susan's poem was the hymn sung at the dedicatory recital.

The arrangement, published in 2025, is by Jeremy Bankson, [b.1975] who is Director of Music at Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Dublin, Ohio. It certainly captures the hymn's enthusiasm, especially on the recurring ascending Alleluias.

✠ Viktor