The Memorial Church of Harvard University Music Notes for Sunday, October 16, 2022

Egil Hovland was the most significant Norwegian composer of his generation and employed many diverse styles in his music—ranging from serialism to neo-romanticism. Be With Us is one of his most beautiful anthems, moving from the lush opening and closing to the powerful quasi-aleatoric section in the center, inspired by the textures of plainchant.

Patricia Van Ness is composer in residence at First Church in Cambridge. Her musical style is influenced by the sounds and spirit of Medieval and Renaissance music, and she has received many awards and recognitions for her compositions. Her setting of verses from Psalm 103 is part of her ongoing Music for the Psalms project, and is dedicated to her late husband, Peter Marks.

This morning's prelude features movements from Van Ness's *Pastoral Suite*, commissioned and dedicated to Peter Sykes, longtime Organist and Director of Music at First Church, Cambridge. The postlude, by Composer in Residence Carson Cooman, was written for David von Behren's recent doctoral recital. A bold introduction fades into quiet, followed by an energetic toccata with an aria in the middle.