

**Prelude:** Tomaso Albinoni: Adagio in g

**Offertory:** Antonio Vivaldi: Largo in A

**Postlude:** Domenico Zipoli: Toccata in C

The organ music for today's service comes from Italy, and the dates of the composers would suggest that it is all from the early baroque era. Zipoli was from Florence (1688-1726) and would go on to do Jesuit missionary work in South America. Vivaldi (1678-1741) and Albinoni (1671-1751) were both Venetian, and while they were both excellent and prolific composers, the latter's most famous piece, which is the Adagio in g minor, has now been exposed as a forgery.

The story was told that when Allied forces were clearing the ruins of the Saxon State Library in Dresden they had discovered a fragment of a manuscript that had never been published, and this fragment was "arranged" by an Italian scholar named Remo Giazotto, who was at the time quite well known in the music community for his cataloging of Albinoni's works. The "Albinoni Adagio" was published for the first time in 1958 and passed for genuine until September of 1990, when a letter from the Saxon State Library confirmed that it was "Giazotto's original work, and contains no Albinoni material." Nevertheless, it is a well-crafted piece in the style of the Italian high baroque. It has found its way into many films and is one of the most recorded pieces of baroque music.

The Vivaldi Largo is an arrangement from one of the concerti in his set *L'estro armonico*. Zipoli's brilliantly virtuosic toccata comes from his first collection of keyboard works, published in 1716.

Thomas Dawkins, organist/choir director