

Rabbi, Weave Your Net of Words

*Rabbi, weave our net of words, intertwining, tying words
Abide, commandment, love:
Commandment, servant, friends, abide:
You weave a net, you weave.
Rabbi, cast your net of words drawing us to you with words.*

This morning at the 10:30 Service, you are hearing something that few people have the opportunity to hear – the world premiere of a choral anthem by a living composer, Alice Parker, setting the text of a living writer, Richard Leach.

And it's all to mark Nathan Ensign's 14th year as St. Paul's music director and the 75th anniversary of our church. This piece is one in a set of three anthems commissioned by Nathan's husband Jerry Lynch.

Alice Parker, internationally known as an arranger, choral conductor and composer, came to St. Paul's to give a wonderful clinic for singers almost two years ago, and that's when Jerry hatched his plan for the commission. He and Alice turned to the work of Richard Leach, a leading writer of words for hymns, whose texts are represented in both mainline and independent hymnals worldwide, as well as in anthems and cantatas.

The outstanding result of this collaboration is today's offertory anthem, *Rabbi, Weave Your Net of Words*. Together with *The Stories That We Live* (premiered last November) and *The Day Begins*, these new songs form a contemporary triptych of biblical words and theological melodies.