

What was I thinking?

January 17, 2021



Be Glad & Rejoice

Once Christmas is over, everything slows down and is easy, right? Not quite. With annual reports due in multiple places (do we really want to review 2020?), servers down so computers won't work, etc. there's plenty to do. December was busy, but there was eggnog, cookies, beautiful decorations, and while music is always good, it's just better at Christmas.

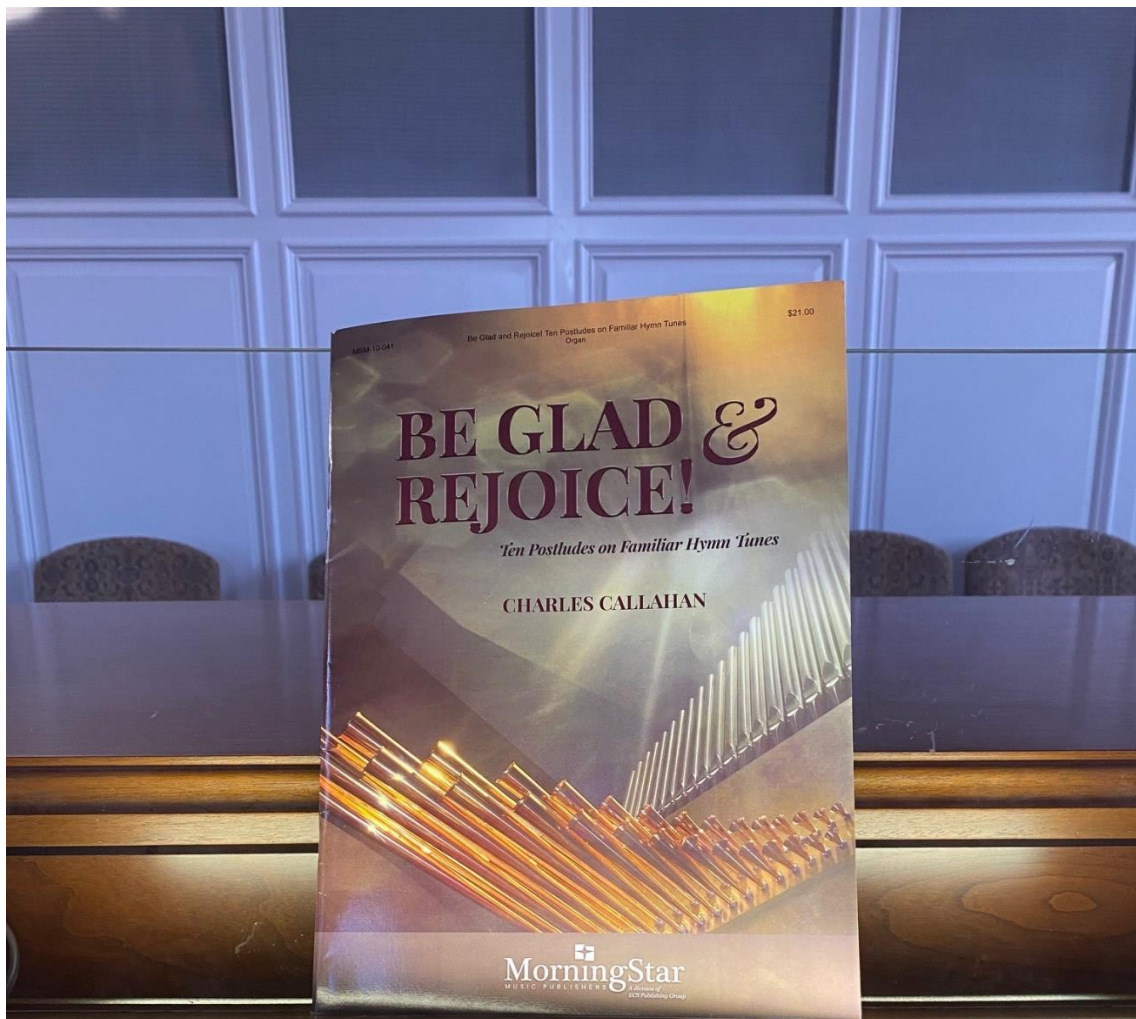
At any rate, I'll keep this relatively short. This seems like it was eons ago, but if you can remember our bicentennial celebration, one part of that was a commissioned collection of organ pieces composed by Charles Callahan. Dr. Callahan is a friend of Kathryn and Carl Nichols, and they generously commissioned this new music. Dr. Callahan (or Charlie, as Kathryn calls him), sent a manuscript copy of the collection in March, 2020. We all remember how March went, and at that time, we had no idea when the music would be published.

We decided to hold off for a while on premiering these works, until we were back to "normal," with a sanctuary full of people on Sunday mornings. That didn't happen. Last October, I got tired of waiting and decided to start playing the pieces in church. I wrote one of these articles about the commissioned works and played the first one of them for a postlude so they could at least be heard in our livestream. That didn't happen either. It was one of those Sundays when we lost our livestream (and later our tempers) at the end of our service. In frustration, I put the works aside.

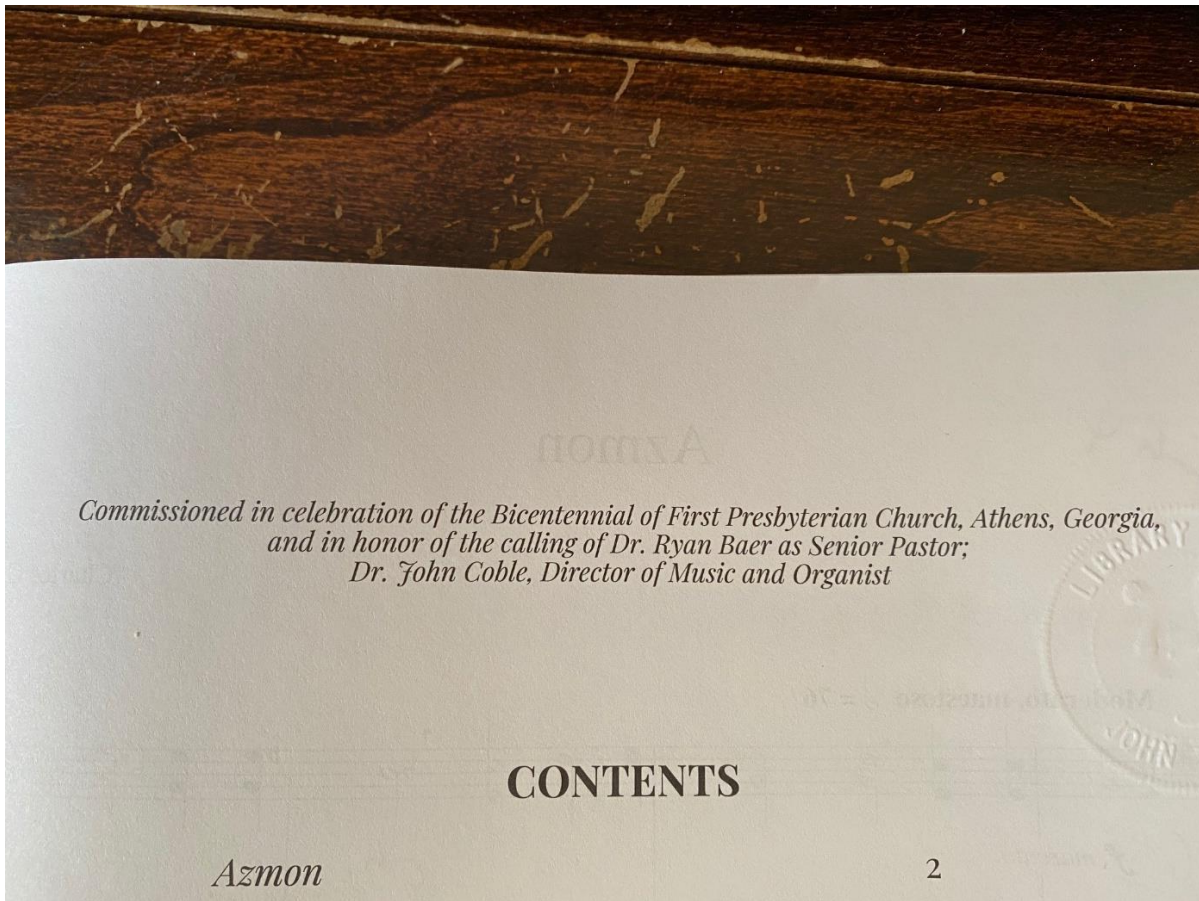
Fast forward to 2021, and in my planning music I could see the piece I played before would, again, be an appropriate postlude. I let Kathryn Nichols know that I would be

playing it again since our livestreaming has improved tremendously. Kathryn asked if she could come by the church during the week to hear the piece “in person,” and just to be in our sanctuary, which she said she really missed. Of course, I agreed, so I played the piece for her, and we had a nice but socially distanced visit.

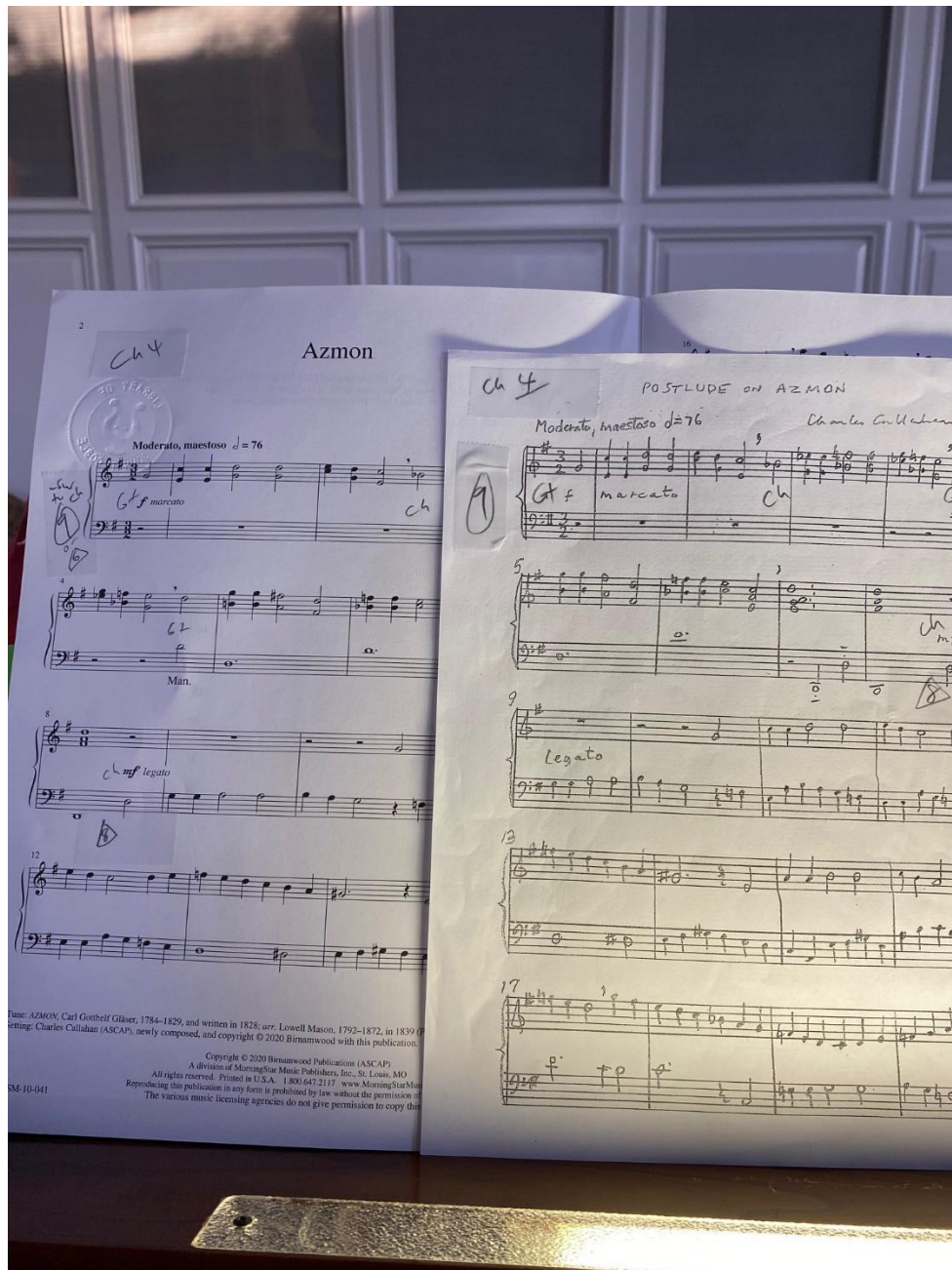
Later that day, I got a message from a very excited Kathryn telling me I wouldn't believe what she just got in the mail – the newly published *Be Glad & Rejoice: Ten Postludes on Familiar Hymn Tunes*. That was good news, and it was interesting that it would come in the mail that very day. I asked Kathryn who the publisher was because I needed to order a copy for myself. She told me there were two copies, one for her and one for me. Kathryn couldn't wait, she just had to bring the music to me at church that day.



Inside is the dedication:



Now, instead of deciphering a manuscript copy, I have a nice, clean, published version:



It was a nice surprise and a pleasant reminder that no matter what our situation is, we need to take time to Be Glad & Rejoice!

God be with you till we meet again.

John