Welcome to this special evening of Psalm-singing to mark the Reformer John Calvin’s 500th birthday! We are delighted to have you with us. All Psalms are in the grey Psalter Hymnal and will proceed unannounced. Please note that the Psalm number is the same as the number in the Psalter Hymnal unless indicated. Please stand (if able) where indicated by an asterisk *.
Prelude: Variations on Psalm 36 (same tune as for Psalm 68) by Sweelinck

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) was organist for 44 years at the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam, beginning when he was only 15. He was known for his improvisations as well as his compositions. More than 70 of his keyboard and 250 of his choral works survive, showing influence from three distinct liturgical traditions—the Calvinist, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic.

*Opening Psalm—Psalm 98, Sing, Sing a New Song to the LORD God

Words of welcome and introduction - Karin Maag, Director, H. Henry Meeter Center

*Psalm of Praise—Psalm 65: Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion

Brief background on the history of Genevan Psalm singing - Howard Slenk, Emeritus Professor, Music

Psalms of Confession and Lament

Psalm 6: LORD, Chasten Not in Anger

Psalm Prayer: led by Emily Brink, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Merciful God, you know our anguish, not from afar, but in the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Take all our grieving and sorrow, all our pain and tears, and heal us according to your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. 1 sung by all in unison
St. 2 organ stanza, by Emily R. Brink
St. 3 sung by all in harmony, with men on the melody, as found on the right page
St. 4 sung by all in unison

Psalm 130: Out of the Depths I Cry, LORD

Psalm Prayer:

O God, you come to us in the depths of our darkest despair, in the suffering of Jesus Christ. By the rising of your Son, give us new light to guide us, that we may always praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Account of Psalm-singing in the Reformation - Howard Slenk

*Psalm of Thanksgiving: Psalm 116: I Love the LORD, for He Has Heard My Voice

Sung unaccompanied: Howard Slenk, precentor
St. 1: all in unison
St. 2: women
St. 3 men
St. 4 variation for recorder, by Jacob van Eyck, played by Calvin Stapert
St. 5 all in harmony

St. 4 was composed by Jacob van Eyck (1589-1657), a Dutch composer, blind from birth, known around the world today for his variations on Genevan Psalm tunes for recorder.

John Calvin's Foreword to the 1542 Genevan Psalter, Part I: Paul Fields, Curator, H. Henry Meeter Center

Psalm of Petition—Psalm 42: As a Deer in Want of Water

Prelude by Johann Crüger, with recorders played by Calvin Stapert and Timothy Steele
St. 1: all in unison, sung in Dutch
‘t Hijgend hert, der jacht ontkomen, Schreeuwt niet sterker naar ‘t genot. Van de frissche waterstroomen, Dan mijn ziel verlangt naar God. Ja, mijn ziel dorst naar den HEER; God des levens, ach, wanneer Zal ik naad’ren voor Uw oogen, In Uw huis Uw naam verhoogen.

St. 2: organ stanza by Johann Pachelbel
St. 3: all in unison
St. 4: organ stanza by Johann Pachelbel
St. 5: all in unison
St. 3: all in unison

The setting for recorders (found opposite Psalm 41 in the Psalter Hymnal) was composed by Johann Crüger (1598-1662), who published the entire Genevan Psalter in 1658 in simple four-part chorale style with instrumental accompaniment. Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), a contemporary of J. S. Bach, was a very popular composer and teacher in the south German organ tradition; he helped develop the organ chorale prelude, often prepared in sets of variations, as in these movements.

John Calvin's Foreword to the 1542 Genevan Psalter, Part II: Lauren Asher and Julia Garvelink, Meeter Center student assistants

Psalms of Rejoicing

Psalm 103: Come, Praise the LORD, My Soul

Sung in alternation with organ stanzas by Jaap Dragt (1930-2003), a Dutch organist and composition professor at the Conservatory of Zwolle from 1961-1987.

Psalm prayer: led by Emily Brink
God of majesty,
we are constantly surrounded by your gifts and touched by your grace. Our words of praise do not approach the wonders of your love. Send forth your Spirit, that our lives may be refreshed, and the whole world may be renewed.
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Prelude and st. 2 and 4 for organ alone
All sing St. 1, 3, and 5

*Psalm 100: All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (text at PsH 100; melody at PsH 134)

Our final psalm is sung to the tune that was adopted in England for Psalm 100, the best known tune from the Genevan Psalter, sung around the world.

St. 1-4 sung by all

Psalm Prayer, in unison:

*Mighty God,*
by your power you created us,
and by your goodness you call us to be your people.
Accept the offering of our worship
that every race and nation may enter your courts,
praising you in song.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Postlude on Genevan 134

The Psalm Prayers were taken from the Presbyterian Book of Daily Prayer.

Please join us for refreshments in the Seminary Student Center following the Psalm-sing.

Participants:

David Williams, our guest organist tonight, is currently studying organ at Notre Dame University under Craig Cramer; he has also studied improvisation on the Genevan Psalms in the Netherlands with Sietze De Vries, who will be performing later this fall at Calvin College, another event in the celebration of Calvin’s 500th anniversary.

Lauren Asher, reader; Emily Brink, organizer and reader; Paul Fields, reader; Julia Garvelink, reader; Karin Maag, reader; Howard Slenk, organizer and reader; Calvin Stapert, flute; Timothy Steele, flute.

This event was hosted by the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies

After many years of planning and preparation, the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies formally came into existence in 1981 and is now the largest Calvinism collection in the Western Hemisphere. The Center’s spacious wing off the fourth floor of the Hekman Library houses a collection of works by and about John Calvin and historic Calvinism and provides comfortable study areas for students and resident scholars using the collection. The Center’s vision is to promote Reformed Christian scholarship and appreciation for the life, times, and work of John Calvin, Calvinism, and the Reformation. It is a valuable resource for scholars and the community at large from all confessional backgrounds. To know more about the Meeter Center and to search the collection, visit the Center’s Web site:

http://www.calvin.edu/meeter