# A Time to Rejoice,





# An Easter Cantata

For flexible choir and piano







#### A Time to Rejoice! Performance Notes

A Time to Rejoice! is a dramatic and poignant cantata in which performers and audience embark on an exciting journey through time to witness the events of the first Easter. The time machine is somewhat unreliable, adding humour to the story, and stops are made in the Garden of Eden and Bethlehem before arriving at Jerusalem for Palm Sunday and the events of the crucifixion. It is suitable for performance by schools and children's choirs, suggested age range 8-13 years. The optional second parts greatly enhance the cantata and can be sung by a group of children or even an adult choir.

Whilst not a staged production, there is plenty of scope for acting in the roles of the Captains. It is proposed that these are taken by two pairs of children, with Captains 1 and 2 swapping with Captains 3 and 4 where indicated, but the roles could be played by just two children if required. The Scripture readings can be divided between children as appropriate. The Captains should wear Pilot-style hats if possible, and there are other opportunities for props to enhance the songs, e.g. tea lights carried by the processing children in the opening song *Make Way*, and imitation (or real!) palm branches can be waved in the choruses of *The King is Coming*.

As in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, there is an opportunity for a congregational hymn to be sung: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* is suggested but other Easter hymns may be equally appropriate. *Lord of the Dance* was included in the inaugural performance and would be a very powerful and poignant addition to the crucifixion section; this is a copyrighted arrangement which can be purchased on the following websites:

https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/lord-of-the-dance-22535743.html

https://www.sheetmusicdirect.com/en-US/se/ID No/1352100/Product.aspx=

# A Time to Rejoice!

[Darkness. As the music begins, the choir or a group of children slowly process holding tea lights, whilst the soloist sings from a pulpit or raised area. Choir and soloist take their places at the front ready for the second verse. The venue lights should be switched on at the start of the first chorus 'Make way'.]

#### Make Way

#### **SOLO:**

There's a light shining in the darkness, There's a star rising in the East, There's a candle, ever-burning, With a flame of love and peace.

#### **ALL:**

There's a vine with many branches, There's a rock, a fortress high, There's a Shepherd, gently leading, There's a Lamb who came to die.

Make way, make His paths straight,
Fill in the valleys, make the mountains low,
Make smooth the way of the Lord,
That the world may see, and the world may know!

He's the Door that leads to Heaven, He's the Bread, the Bread of Life, He's the Water for the thirsty, And his name is Jesus Christ.

Make way, make His paths straight,
Fill in the valleys, make the mountains low,
Make smooth the way of the Lord,
That the world may see, and the world may know!
Make way!

[CAPTAINS 1 and 2 come to pulpit]

**CAPTAIN 1:** Welcome to our time machine- I think we'll all fit in;

When you're sitting comfortably, our journey will begin. You'll find a seat belt to your left; please fasten it up tight And keep it on, for this may be a very bumpy flight.

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

So now to our travels; today's destination
Is the Year 33 AD, prepare to be elated
As we visit that first Easter time, and view
The amazing events that changed the world for me and you.

#### Come with Us

Come with us on a journey back in time,

Through the ages and the pages of the history books we'll ride:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time,

On a wonderful journey through time!

Come with us to a strange and distant land,

Yes, the very place where God in grace and mercy came to man:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time,

On a wonderful journey through time!

Come with us to a real Easter time,

Leave your bunnies and your flowers and your chocolate eggs behind:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time, On a wonderful journey through time!

(PART 1) Now we fly! (PART 2) Come with us on a journey back in time,

(PART 1) Now we fly! (PART 2) Through the ages and the pages of the history books we'll ride: (ALL) Now we fly! Now we fly!

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the smoothest of landings; We now just need you to be a little understanding: It's really nothing we can't fix, But there seems to be a slight technical hitch:

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

Instead of travelling to the Year 33, We've arrived at the start of time itself- come and see! While our engineers work to get us back off the ground Let's step outside and have a look around.

1st reading: Genesis 3, 8-15, 17,19

#### The World is New

The world is new, (The world is new)
The world is new, (The world is new)
Beautiful colours and sights and sounds,
Everything perfect from sky to ground.

The world is new, (The world is new)
The world is new, (The world is new)
See our first parents in paradise,
Nothing to want for, no tears or strife.

But in that garden, Our parents disobey, Turn away from God who made them-Hear now what He has to say:

'You and your children, And all their children too, Must know death and toil and sorrow'-This is more the world we know!

There is a way, (There is a way)
There is a way, (There is a way)
God has a plan to save sinful men
And bring them back to himself again.

There is a way, (There is a way)
There is a way, (There is a way)
God makes a promise to send his Son,
To save his people in power and love,
And make them new, (And make them new)
And make them new!

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

An interesting detour, I'm sure you'll agree, But now to Jerusalem, a hundred percent guaranteed. Here we are, coming down... Hmm... this isn't a city, or even a town.

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

Try not to worry, I'm sure everything's fine, It's probably just some sort of Park and Ride... This signpost here will tell us what we need to know: It's pointing to..ah..Bethlehem? Never mind, let's go!

#### Take the road to Bethlehem

Take the road to Bethlehem,
Even though a rough and narrow way,
Follow the star (follow the star) to a stable
And a manger stuffed with hay:
Take the road to Bethlehem
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem,
Join the shepherds marching through the night,
Full of awe (full of awe and wonder)
At the angels' marvellous light!
Take the road to Bethlehem
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem,
See the wise men bringing precious gifts,
Worshipping Him (worshipping the Saviour)
Lord of Lords and King of Kings!
Take the road to Bethlehem
See the wise men, (see the wise men)
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem
See the wise men, (see the wise men)
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

#### 2nd reading: Luke 1 26-35;38 and Luke 2 1,3-7

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

So we're 33 years too early; this machine is barely fit to fly; Where exactly did you get it, from Aldi's middle aisle? Now somehow you'd better get us out of this jam, Or our Time Travel business is going down the pan...

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

(To CAPTAIN 1): Don't worry, I've got this! (To AUDIENCE, loudly): Passengers, listen to me, I can now reveal that you have won the time travel lottery: Yes, the extra destinations on today's tour Are a special exclusive, so hop back on to discover more!

(Instrumental reprise: Come with Us). CAPTAINS 1 and 2 swap with CAPTAINS 3 and 4, handing over hats.

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

Here we are in 33 AD, a week early isn't bad, We'll put you up in Jerusalem's finest pad Courtesy of Time Tours, on an all-inclusive basis: The wi-fi's not great, but the cocktails are amazing!

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

And as an added bonus you all get to see
The joyous occasion of Palm Sunday,
When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's back
And the crowd lay down branches with cheering and claps.

3rd reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

#### The King is Coming

The King of Kings is coming
Riding on a donkey's colt
The King of Kings is coming
With a clippety clop and a bumpity bump
He's coming, he's coming

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King! (2 parts)

He's entering Jerusalem
Riding through the golden gate
He's entering Jerusalem
As the prophets foretold in the Scriptures of old
And now fulfilled, and now fulfilled.

We've seen his marvellous miracles
Only God could do these things
We've seen his marvellous miracles
Seen the lame leaping high, seen the dead brought to life
Such miracles, such miracles

#### (SOLO)

So soon the world will turn on him, Cry to put him on the cross So soon the world will turn on him, Strip his clothes, put a crown made of thorns on his head, They'll turn on him, they'll turn on him (ALL) Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King!

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King! Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King!

4th reading: Mark 14:1,10; 43-46; 53-56; 60-61

#### **Seize Him**

Seize him, seize him, come with lanterns, come with torches, Lift your swords and swing your clubs! Strike him hard and spit in his face, Bind him fast and lead him away!

Pontus Pilate, great and mighty governor, Give your judgement on this man, He claims he's the King of the Jews, We say that this cannot be!

Nothing, not a word does He reply When they accuse and question Him Though you find no fault in him, We say 'charge him, crucify!'

Mock him, mock him,

Strip his clothes and dress him in a robe of purple cloth Plait a crown of thorns for his head, Spitting as you bow to him!

Send him, send him to the cross!

**5th reading: Luke 23:13-21** 

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

Don't be alarmed, this is all in God's plan, Set before the start of time, to rescue ruined man.

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

Stand over here, then you'll get a good view Of Jesus on the cross, between robbers two.

6th reading: John 19:1-3; 16-30

Lord of the Dance (Optional: must be purchased separately due to copyright)

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John –
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

#### Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

#### Chorus

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black –
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

#### Chorus

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
And you'll live in me –
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

Chorus

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

We apologise for the darkness, three hours over the land But be patient, as something wonderful is at hand Although Jesus has now in a tomb been laid, Come back on Sunday ready to rejoice and praise.

**Instrumental:** Lord of the Dance reprise

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

See here, the tomb where Jesus was laid, The huge, heavy stone has been rolled away! He is not there, for he has risen from the dead, And all sadness has become joy instead.

7th reading: Matthew 28:1-9

# **OPTIONAL CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

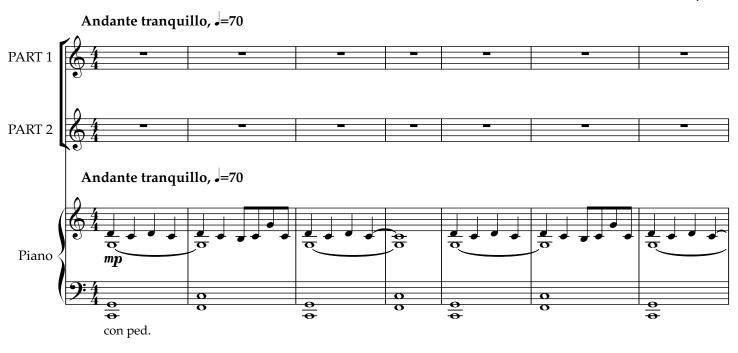
See Jesus walking amongst his friends, Fully alive for all to see, Talking with them, eating too, To prove that all He said was true.

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

Although we must head back to the 21st Century, Remember and rejoice at all that we've seen, And if you decide that time travel's not your thing, Everything is there in the Scriptures: just look and believe.

**ALL: MAKE WAY (REPRISE)** 

# Make Way











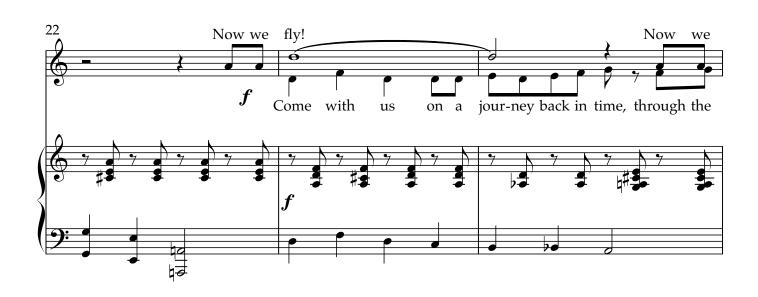


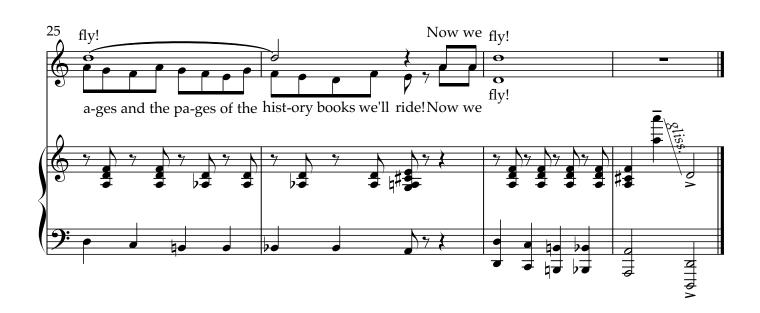
## Come with us











## The World is New

Piano

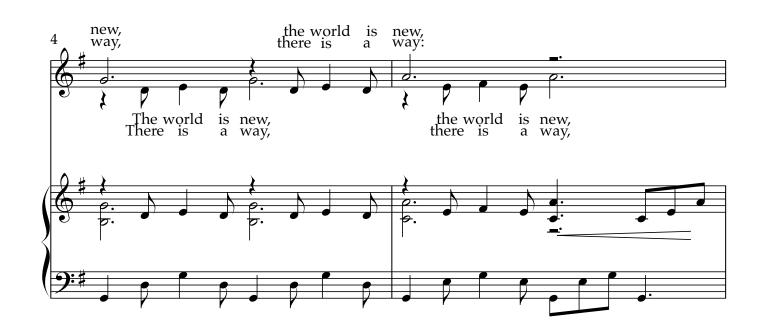
Andante tranquillo, ..=60

Andante tranquillo, ..=60

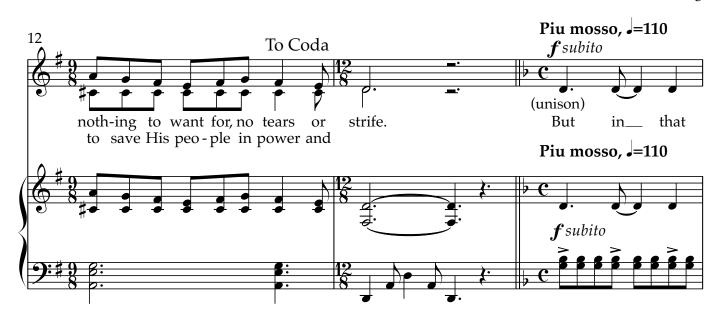
Piano

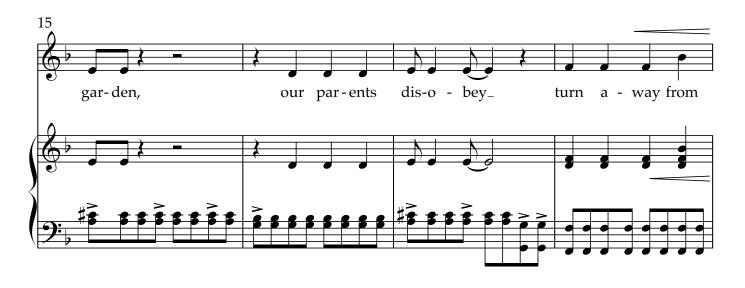
Piano

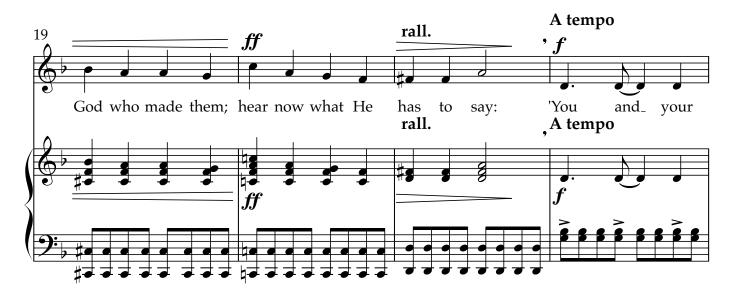
Con pedale.





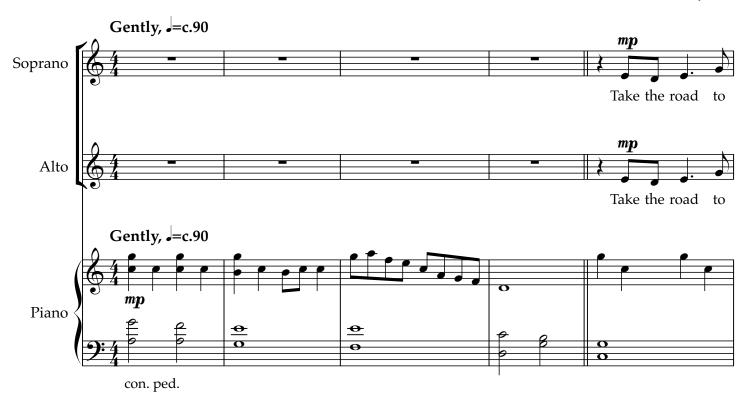




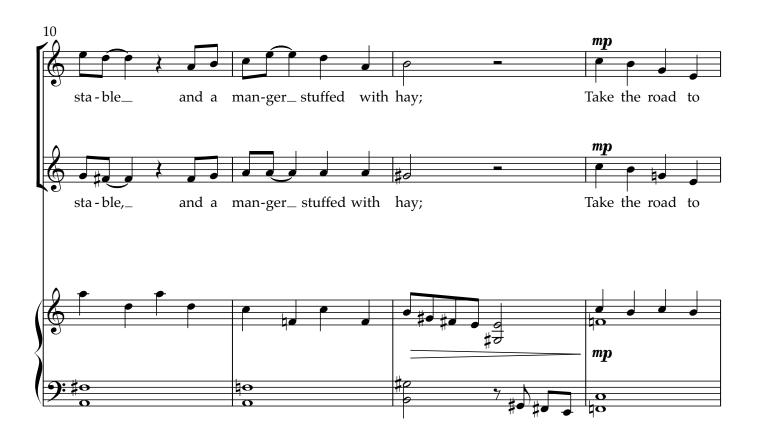


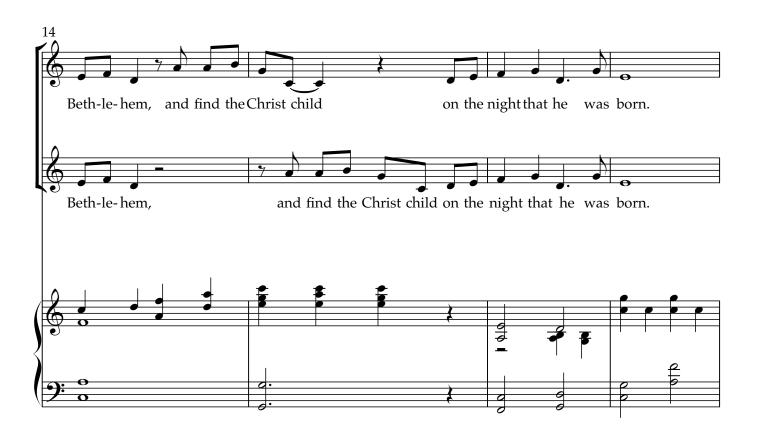


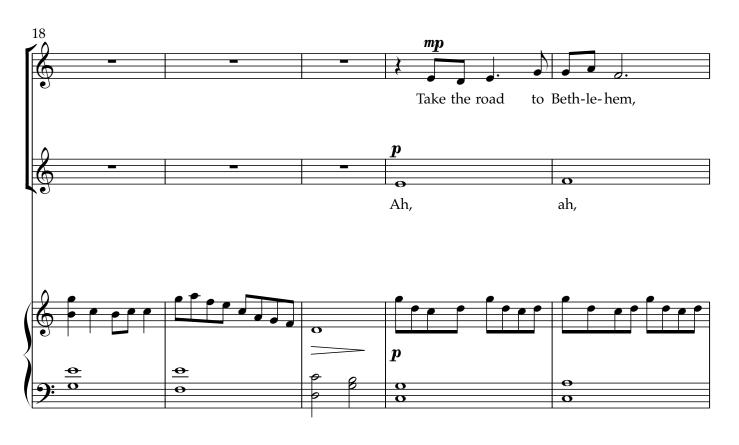
#### Take the road to Bethlehem

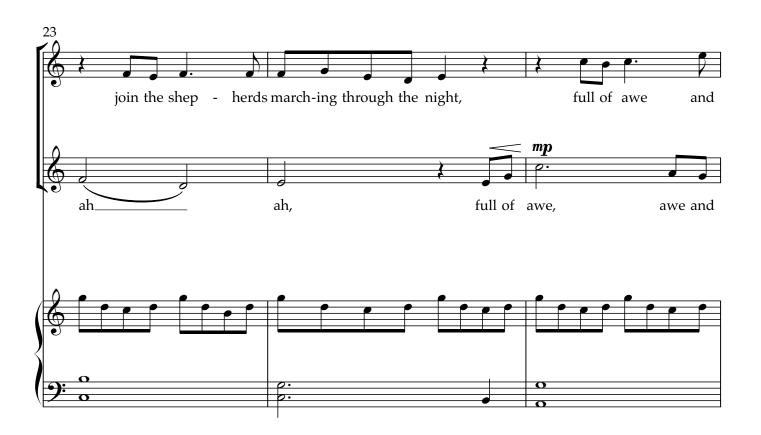




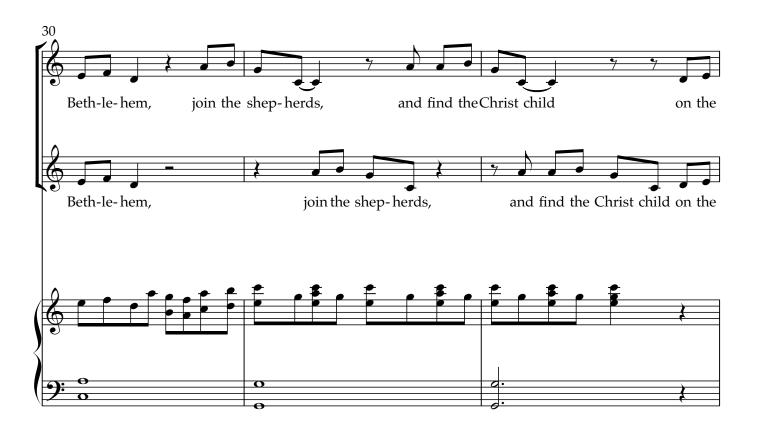




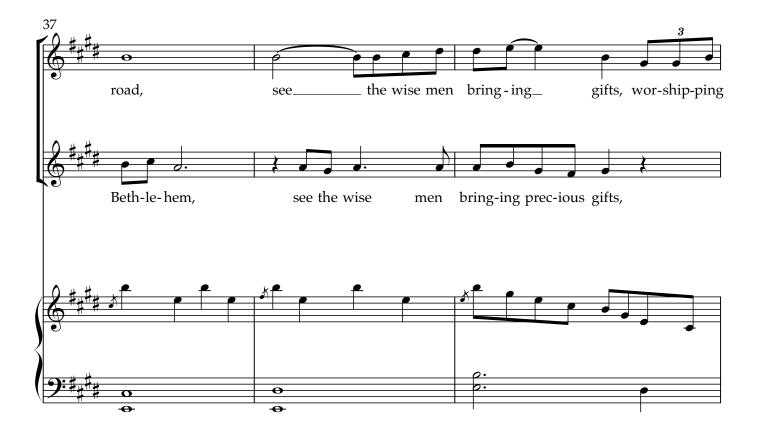


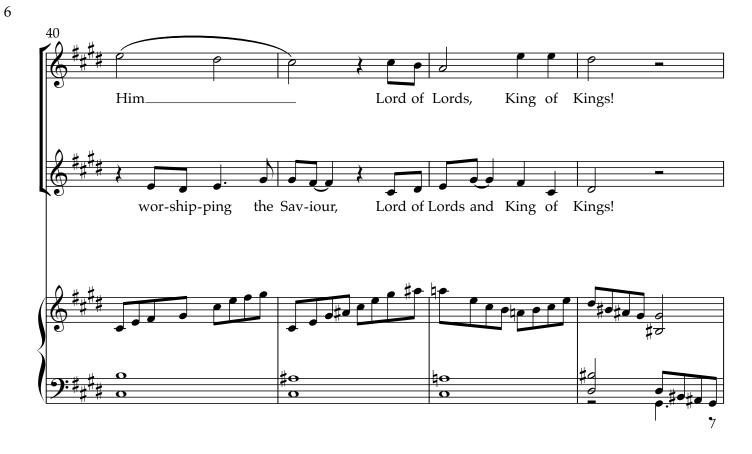


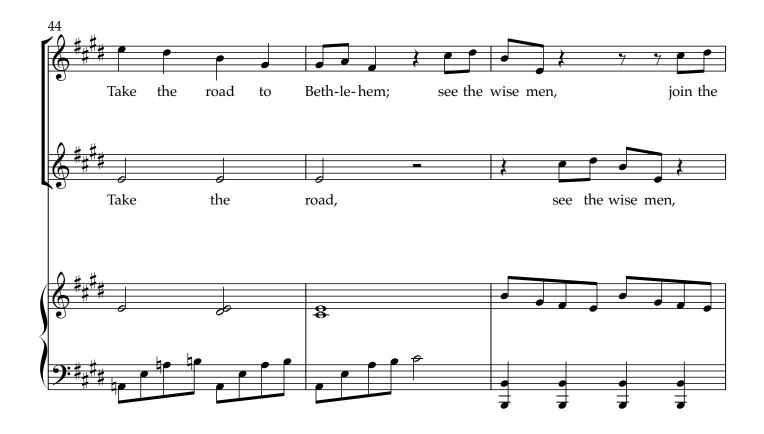


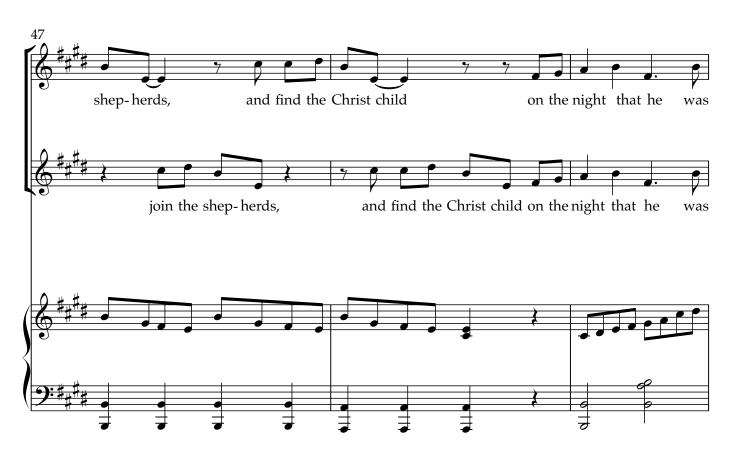


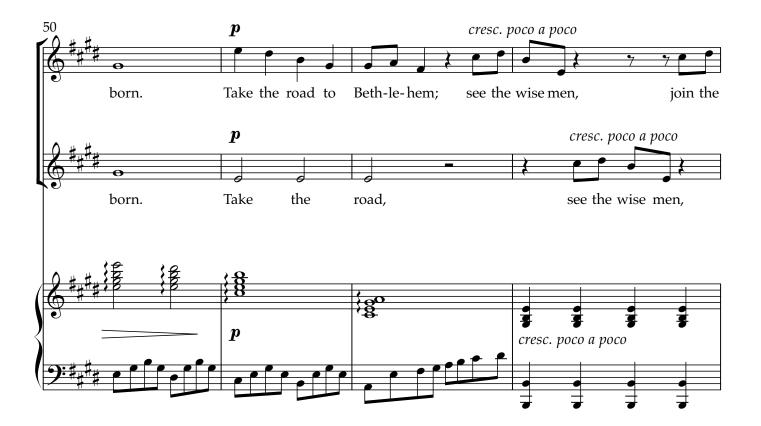


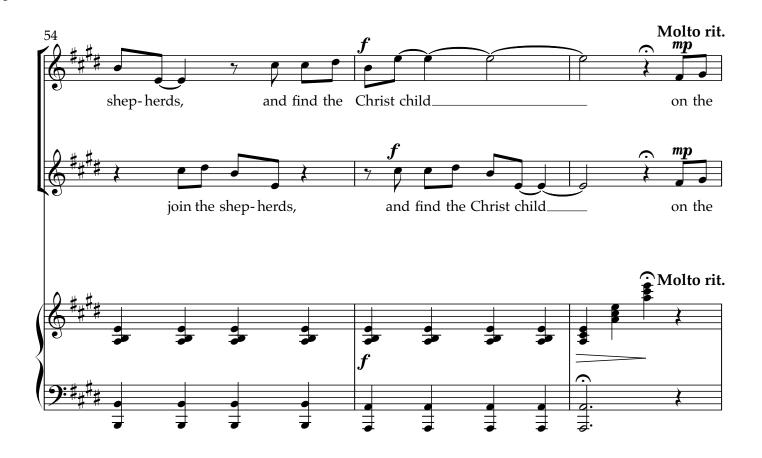


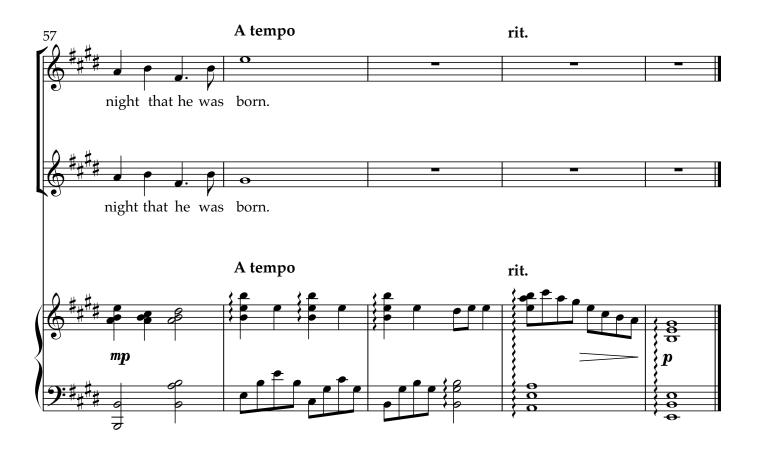






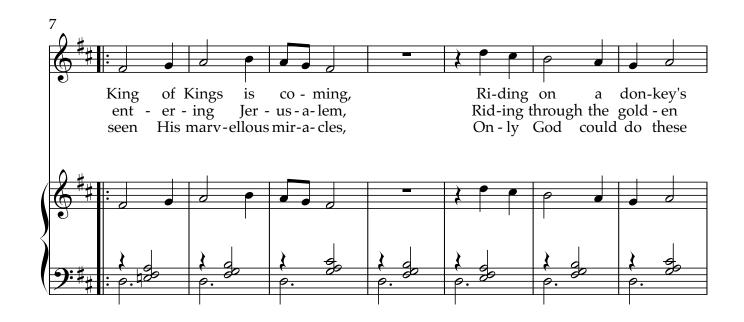






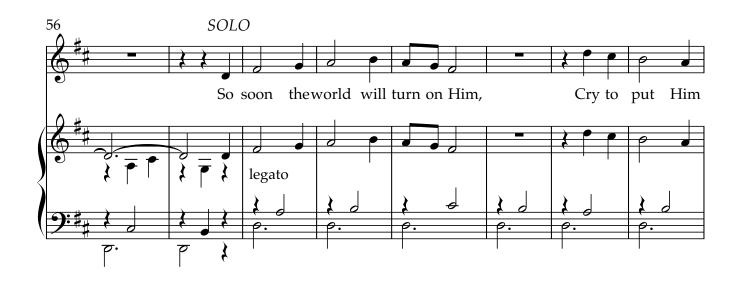
# The King is Coming



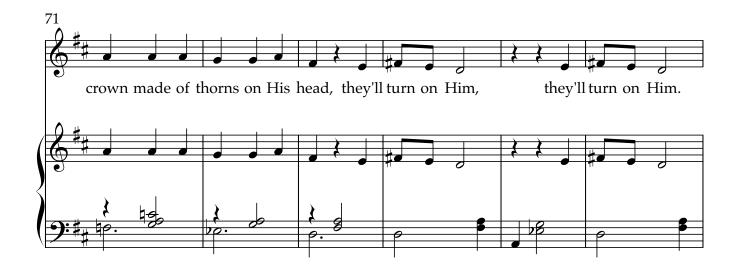


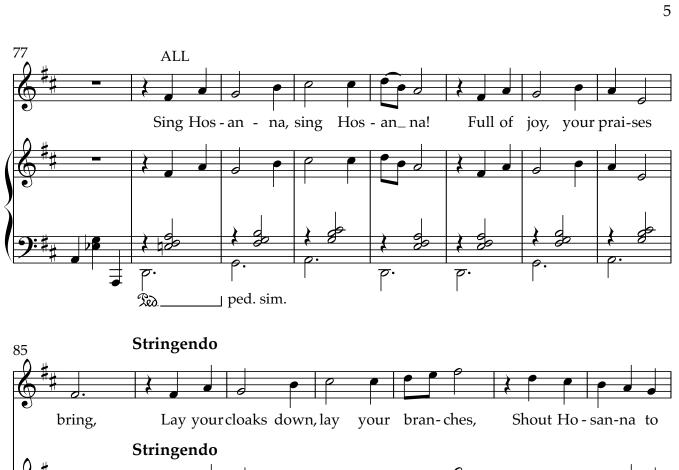


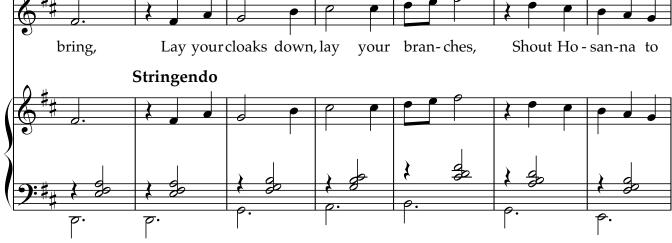










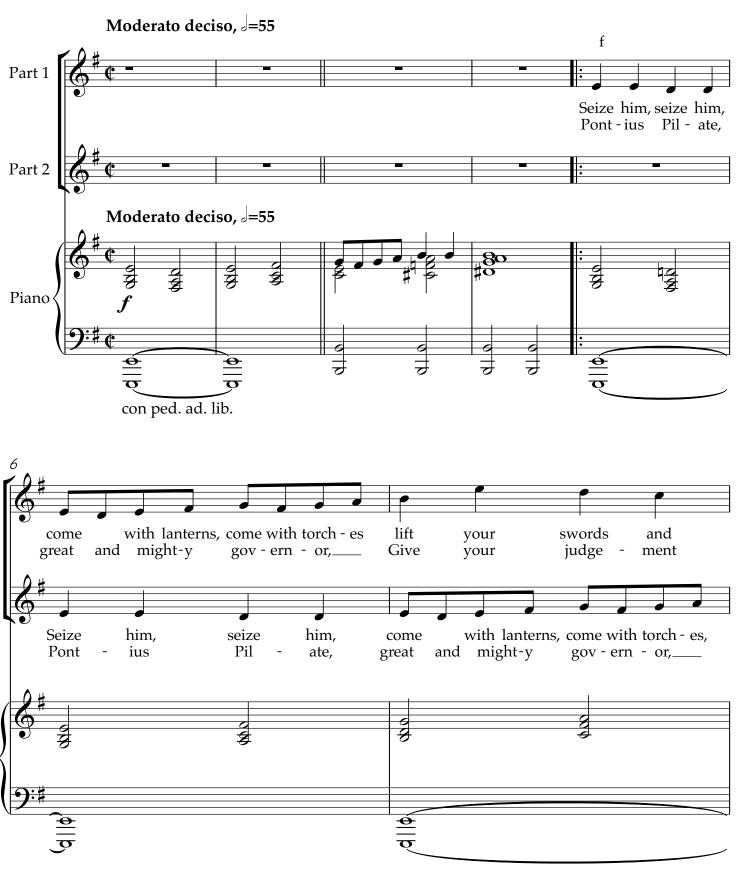


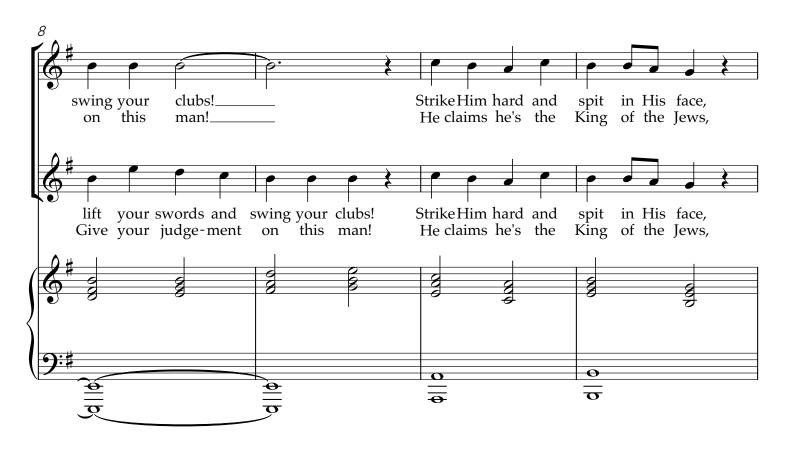


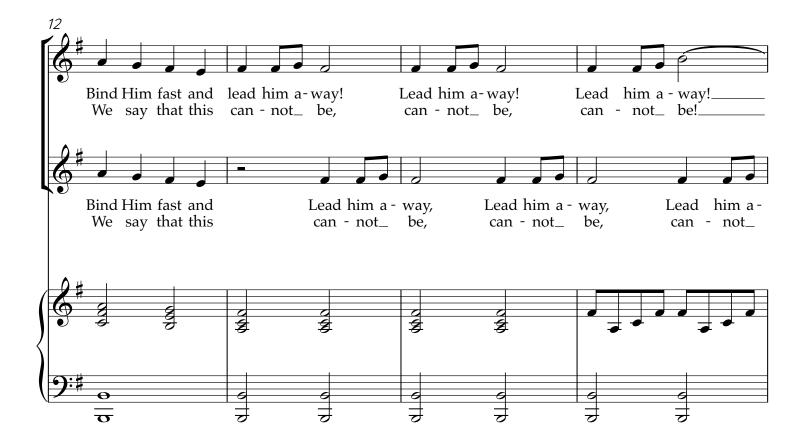


### Seize him!

Samantha Jellett

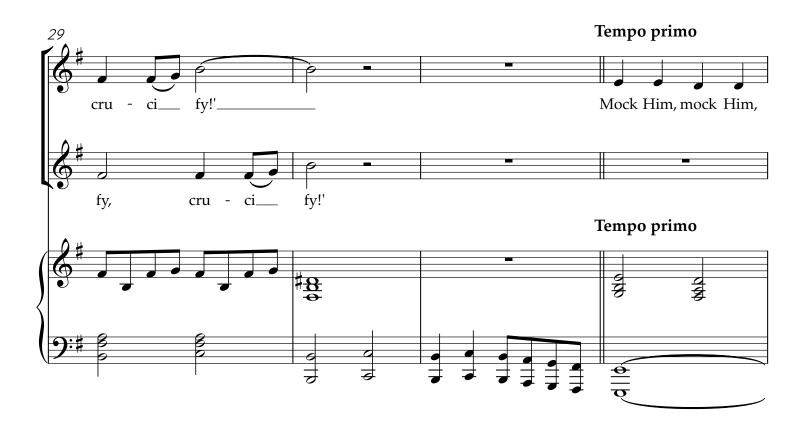


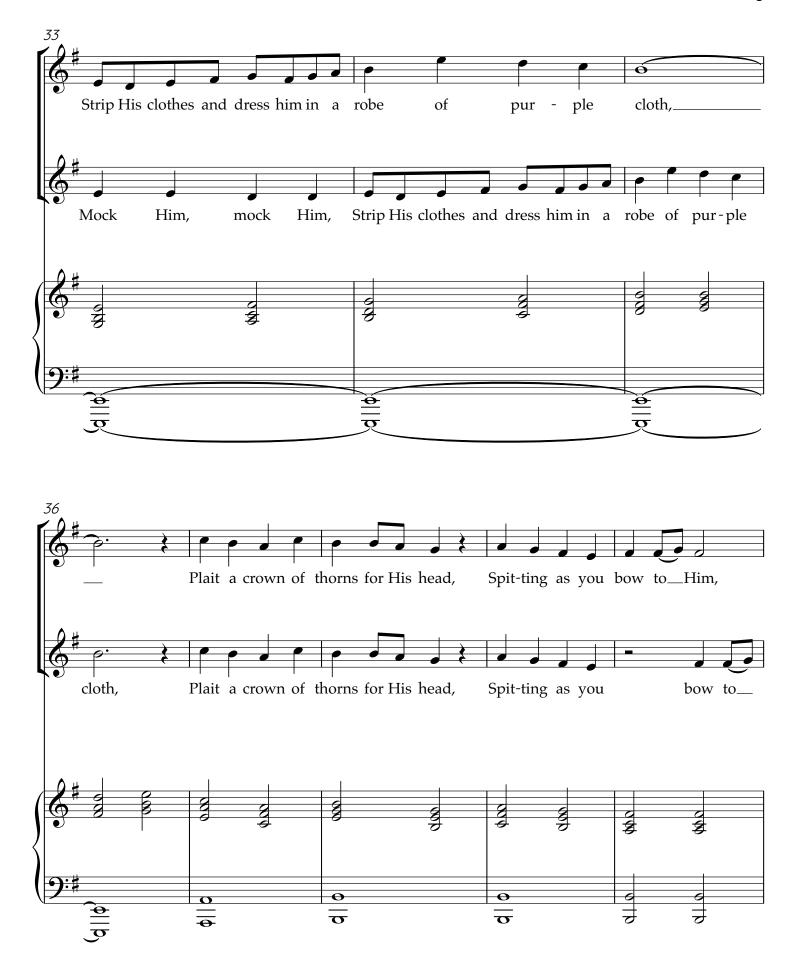


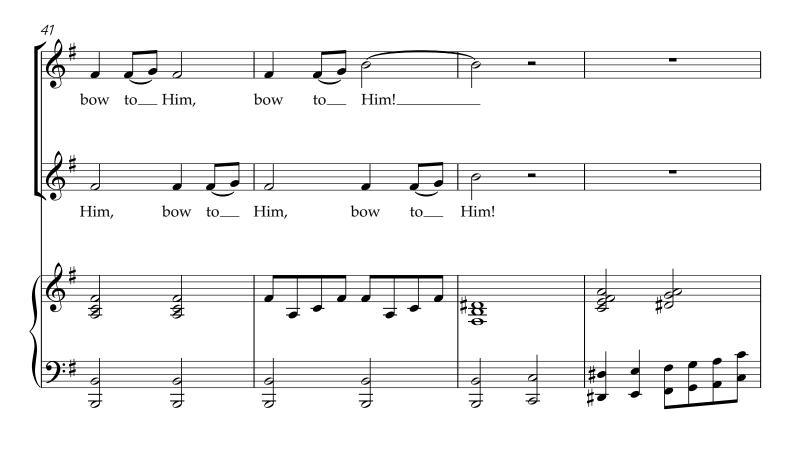


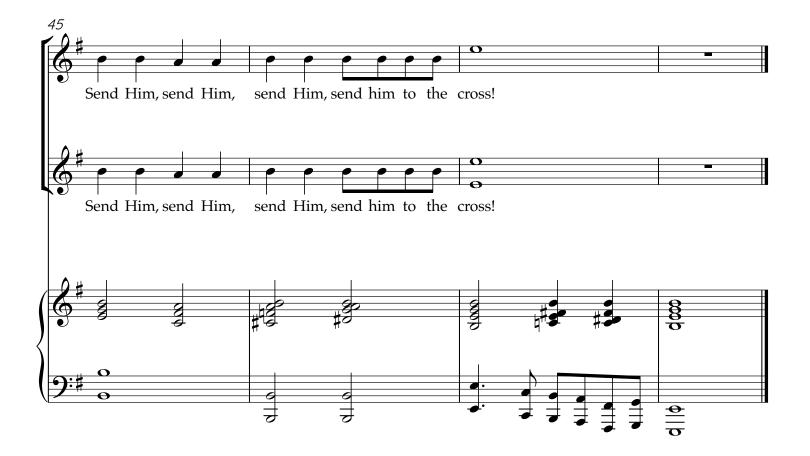












#### A Time to Rejoice! Readings

#### 1st Reading

Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

//

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Luke 1: 26–35; 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

//

#### Luke 2: 1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her

child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

#### 3rd Reading

#### **Matthew 21: 1-11**

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

//

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

#### 4th Reading

Mark 14:1,10; 43-46; 53-56; 60-61

After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death.

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money.

And immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely."

As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.

And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.

Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" But He kept silent and answered nothing.

#### 5th Reading

#### Luke 23: 13-21

Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

He answered him and said, "It is as you say." So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast). And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"— who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify Him!"

#### 6th Reading: John 19:1-3; 16-30

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had

received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

#### 7th Reading

#### **Matthew 28:1-9**

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

# A Time to Rejoice,





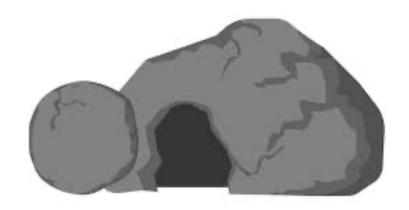
## An Easter Cantata

For flexible choir and organ



By Samantha Jellett





#### A Time to Rejoice! Performance Notes

A Time to Rejoice! is a dramatic and poignant cantata in which performers and audience embark on an exciting journey through time to witness the events of the first Easter. The time machine is somewhat unreliable, adding humour to the story, and stops are made in the Garden of Eden and Bethlehem before arriving at Jerusalem for Palm Sunday and the events of the crucifixion. It is suitable for performance by schools and children's choirs, suggested age range 8-13 years. The optional second parts greatly enhance the cantata and can be sung by a group of children or even an adult choir.

Whilst not a staged production, there is plenty of scope for acting in the roles of the Captains. It is proposed that these are taken by two pairs of children, with Captains 1 and 2 swapping with Captains 3 and 4 where indicated, but the roles could be played by just two children if required. The Scripture readings can be divided between children as appropriate. The Captains should wear Pilot-style hats if possible, and there are other opportunities for props to enhance the songs, e.g. tea lights carried by the processing children in the opening song *Make Way*, and imitation (or real!) palm branches can be waved in the choruses of *The King is Coming*.

As in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, there is an opportunity for a congregational hymn to be sung: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* is suggested but other Easter hymns may be equally appropriate. *Lord of the Dance* was included in the inaugural performance and would be a very powerful and poignant addition to the crucifixion section; this is a copyrighted arrangement which can be purchased on the following websites:

https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/lord-of-the-dance-22535754.html

https://www.sheetmusicdirect.com/en-US/se/ID No/1568451/Product.aspx

## A Time to Rejoice!

[Darkness. As the music begins, the choir or a group of children slowly process holding tea lights, whilst the soloist sings from a pulpit or raised area. Choir and soloist take their places at the front ready for the second verse. The venue lights should be switched on at the start of the first chorus 'Make way'.]

#### Make Way

#### **SOLO:**

There's a light shining in the darkness, There's a star rising in the East, There's a candle, ever-burning, With a flame of love and peace.

#### **ALL:**

There's a vine with many branches, There's a rock, a fortress high, There's a Shepherd, gently leading, There's a Lamb who came to die.

Make way, make His paths straight,
Fill in the valleys, make the mountains low,
Make smooth the way of the Lord,
That the world may see, and the world may know!

He's the Door that leads to Heaven, He's the Bread, the Bread of Life, He's the Water for the thirsty, And his name is Jesus Christ.

Make way, make His paths straight,
Fill in the valleys, make the mountains low,
Make smooth the way of the Lord,
That the world may see, and the world may know!
Make way!

[CAPTAINS 1 and 2 come to pulpit]

**CAPTAIN 1:** Welcome to our time machine- I think we'll all fit in;

When you're sitting comfortably, our journey will begin. You'll find a seat belt to your left; please fasten it up tight And keep it on, for this may be a very bumpy flight.

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

So now to our travels; today's destination
Is the Year 33 AD, prepare to be elated
As we visit that first Easter time, and view
The amazing events that changed the world for me and you.

#### Come with Us

Come with us on a journey back in time,

Through the ages and the pages of the history books we'll ride:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time,

On a wonderful journey through time!

Come with us to a strange and distant land,

Yes, the very place where God in grace and mercy came to man:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time,

On a wonderful journey through time!

Come with us to a real Easter time,

Leave your bunnies and your flowers and your chocolate eggs behind:

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey where no-one's been before!

Here we go, now we fly,

Hold on tight, close your eyes,

On a wonderful journey through time, On a wonderful journey through time!

(PART 1) Now we fly! (PART 2) Come with us on a journey back in time,

(PART 1) Now we fly! (PART 2) Through the ages and the pages of the history books we'll ride: (ALL) Now we fly! Now we fly!

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the smoothest of landings; We now just need you to be a little understanding: It's really nothing we can't fix, But there seems to be a slight technical hitch:

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

Instead of travelling to the Year 33, We've arrived at the start of time itself- come and see! While our engineers work to get us back off the ground Let's step outside and have a look around.

1st reading: Genesis 3, 8-15, 17,19

#### The World is New

The world is new, (The world is new)
The world is new, (The world is new)
Beautiful colours and sights and sounds,
Everything perfect from sky to ground.

The world is new, (The world is new)
The world is new, (The world is new)
See our first parents in paradise,
Nothing to want for, no tears or strife.

But in that garden, Our parents disobey, Turn away from God who made them-Hear now what He has to say:

'You and your children, And all their children too, Must know death and toil and sorrow'-This is more the world we know!

There is a way, (There is a way)
There is a way, (There is a way)
God has a plan to save sinful men
And bring them back to himself again.

There is a way, (There is a way)
There is a way, (There is a way)
God makes a promise to send his Son,
To save his people in power and love,
And make them new, (And make them new)
And make them new!

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

An interesting detour, I'm sure you'll agree, But now to Jerusalem, a hundred percent guaranteed. Here we are, coming down... Hmm... this isn't a city, or even a town.

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

Try not to worry, I'm sure everything's fine, It's probably just some sort of Park and Ride... This signpost here will tell us what we need to know: It's pointing to..ah..Bethlehem? Never mind, let's go!

#### Take the road to Bethlehem

Take the road to Bethlehem,
Even though a rough and narrow way,
Follow the star (follow the star) to a stable
And a manger stuffed with hay:
Take the road to Bethlehem
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem,
Join the shepherds marching through the night,
Full of awe (full of awe and wonder)
At the angels' marvellous light!
Take the road to Bethlehem
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem,
See the wise men bringing precious gifts,
Worshipping Him (worshipping the Saviour)
Lord of Lords and King of Kings!
Take the road to Bethlehem
See the wise men, (see the wise men)
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

Take the road to Bethlehem
See the wise men, (see the wise men)
Join the shepherds, (join the shepherds)
And find the Christ Child (and find the Christ Child)
On the night that He was born.

#### 2nd reading: Luke 1 26-35;38 and Luke 2 1,3-7

#### **CAPTAIN 1:**

So we're 33 years too early; this machine is barely fit to fly; Where exactly did you get it, from Aldi's middle aisle? Now somehow you'd better get us out of this jam, Or our Time Travel business is going down the pan...

#### **CAPTAIN 2:**

(To CAPTAIN 1): Don't worry, I've got this! (To AUDIENCE, loudly): Passengers, listen to me, I can now reveal that you have won the time travel lottery: Yes, the extra destinations on today's tour Are a special exclusive, so hop back on to discover more!

(Instrumental reprise: Come with Us). CAPTAINS 1 and 2 swap with CAPTAINS 3 and 4, handing over hats.

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

Here we are in 33 AD, a week early isn't bad, We'll put you up in Jerusalem's finest pad Courtesy of Time Tours, on an all-inclusive basis: The wi-fi's not great, but the cocktails are amazing!

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

And as an added bonus you all get to see
The joyous occasion of Palm Sunday,
When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's back
And the crowd lay down branches with cheering and claps.

3rd reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

#### The King is Coming

The King of Kings is coming
Riding on a donkey's colt
The King of Kings is coming
With a clippety clop and a bumpity bump
He's coming, he's coming

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King! (2 parts)

He's entering Jerusalem
Riding through the golden gate
He's entering Jerusalem
As the prophets foretold in the Scriptures of old
And now fulfilled, and now fulfilled.

We've seen his marvellous miracles
Only God could do these things
We've seen his marvellous miracles
Seen the lame leaping high, seen the dead brought to life
Such miracles, such miracles

#### (SOLO)

So soon the world will turn on him, Cry to put him on the cross So soon the world will turn on him, Strip his clothes, put a crown made of thorns on his head, They'll turn on him, they'll turn on him (ALL) Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King!

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna, Full of joy, your praises bring Lay your cloaks down, lay your branches Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King! Shout Hosanna to Heaven's King!

4th reading: Mark 14:1,10; 43-46; 53-56; 60-61

#### **Seize Him**

Seize him, seize him, come with lanterns, come with torches, Lift your swords and swing your clubs! Strike him hard and spit in his face, Bind him fast and lead him away!

Pontus Pilate, great and mighty governor, Give your judgement on this man, He claims he's the King of the Jews, We say that this cannot be!

Nothing, not a word does He reply When they accuse and question Him Though you find no fault in him, We say 'charge him, crucify!'

Mock him, mock him,

Strip his clothes and dress him in a robe of purple cloth Plait a crown of thorns for his head, Spitting as you bow to him!

Send him, send him to the cross!

**5th reading: Luke 23:13-21** 

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

Don't be alarmed, this is all in God's plan, Set before the start of time, to rescue ruined man.

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

Stand over here, then you'll get a good view Of Jesus on the cross, between robbers two.

6th reading: John 19:1-3; 16-30

Lord of the Dance (Optional: must be purchased separately due to copyright)

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John –
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

#### Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

#### Chorus

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black –
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

#### Chorus

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
And you'll live in me –
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

Chorus

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

We apologise for the darkness, three hours over the land But be patient, as something wonderful is at hand Although Jesus has now in a tomb been laid, Come back on Sunday ready to rejoice and praise.

**Instrumental:** Lord of the Dance reprise

#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

See here, the tomb where Jesus was laid, The huge, heavy stone has been rolled away! He is not there, for he has risen from the dead, And all sadness has become joy instead.

7th reading: Matthew 28:1-9

# **OPTIONAL CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

#### **CAPTAIN 3:**

See Jesus walking amongst his friends, Fully alive for all to see, Talking with them, eating too, To prove that all He said was true.

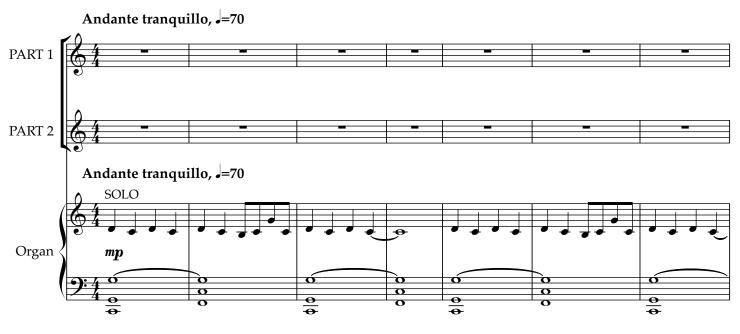
#### **CAPTAIN 4:**

Although we must head back to the 21st Century, Remember and rejoice at all that we've seen, And if you decide that time travel's not your thing, Everything is there in the Scriptures: just look and believe.

**ALL: MAKE WAY (REPRISE)** 

# Make Way

Samantha Jellett













# Come with us



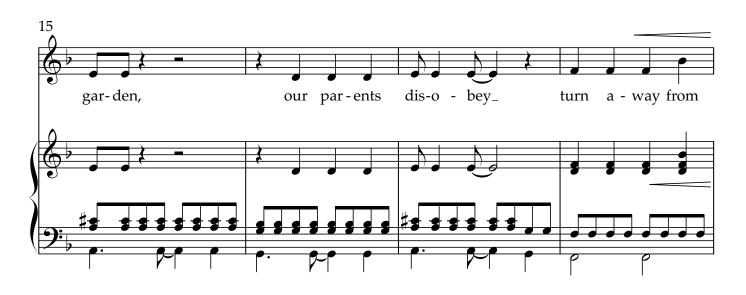


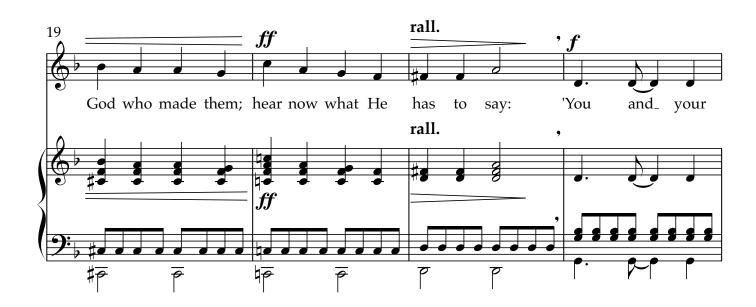


## The World is New









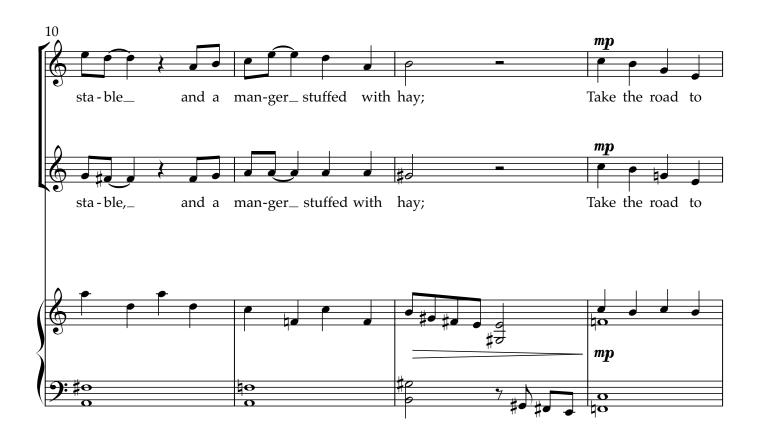


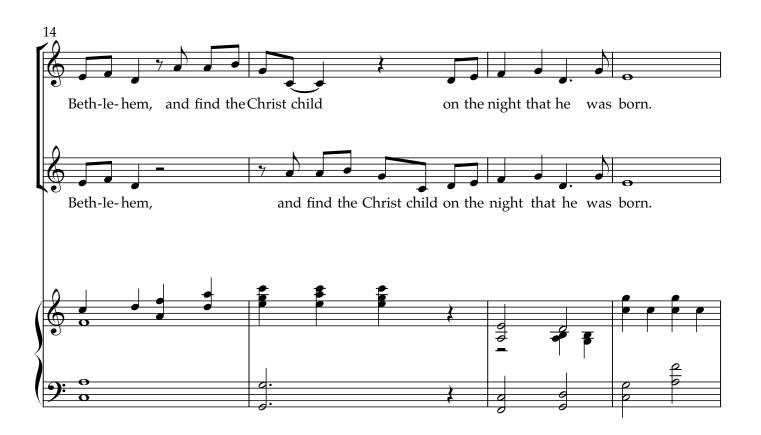


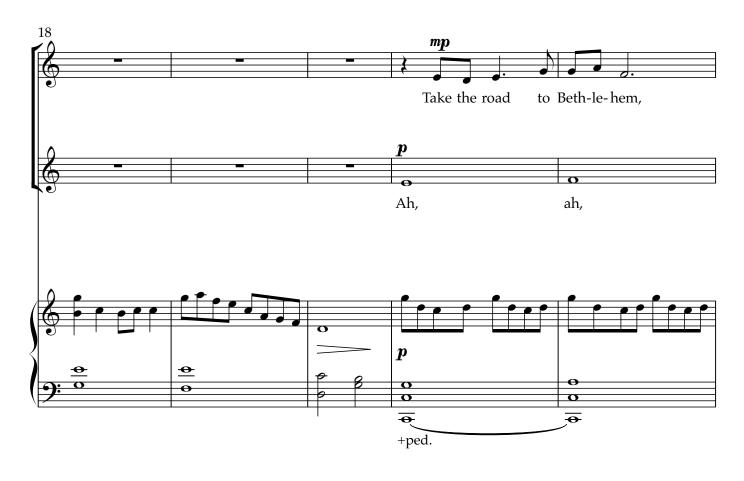
## Take the road to Bethlehem

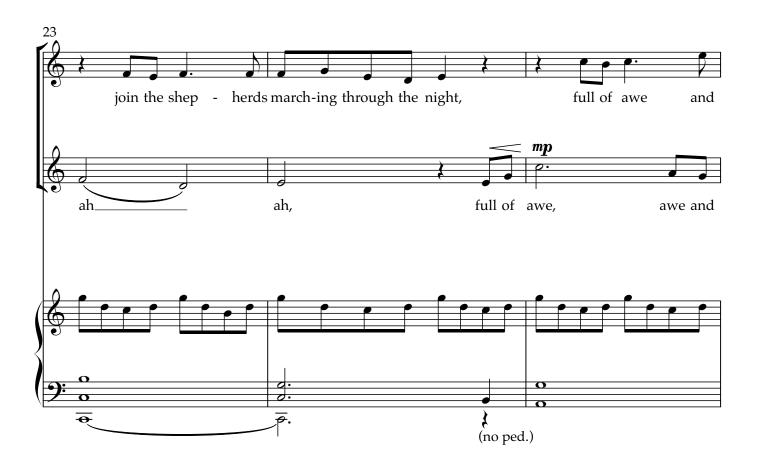
Gently, =c.90

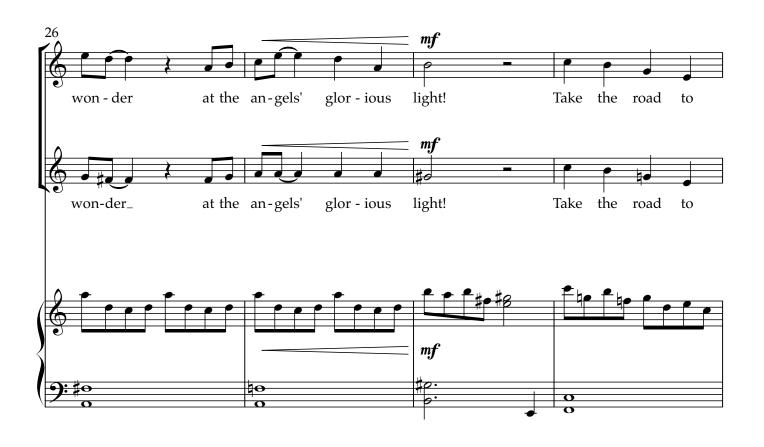


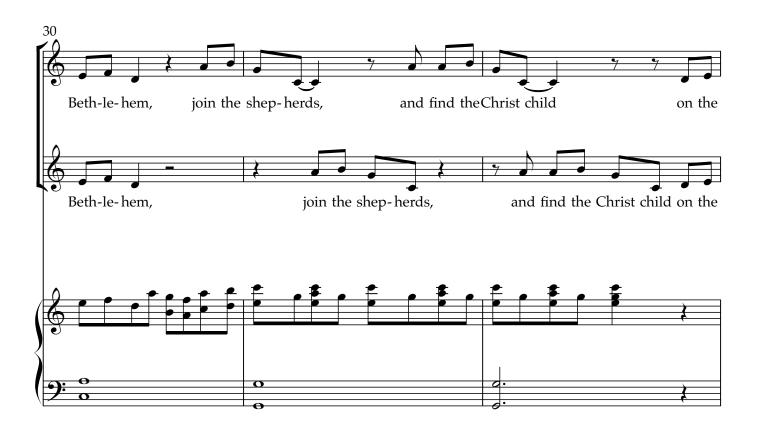




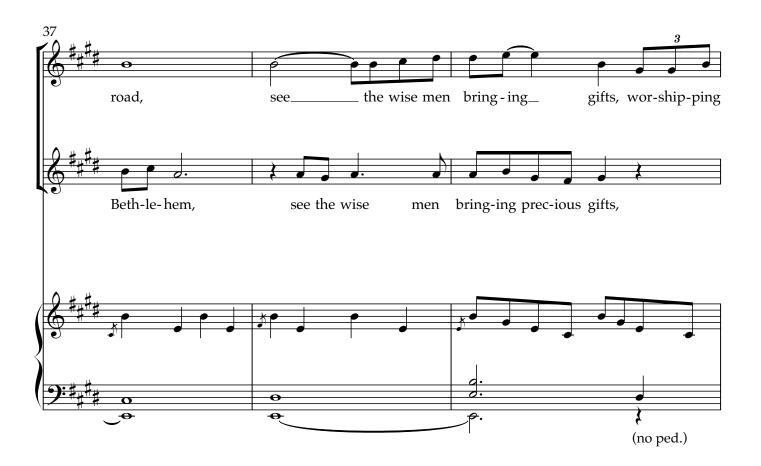


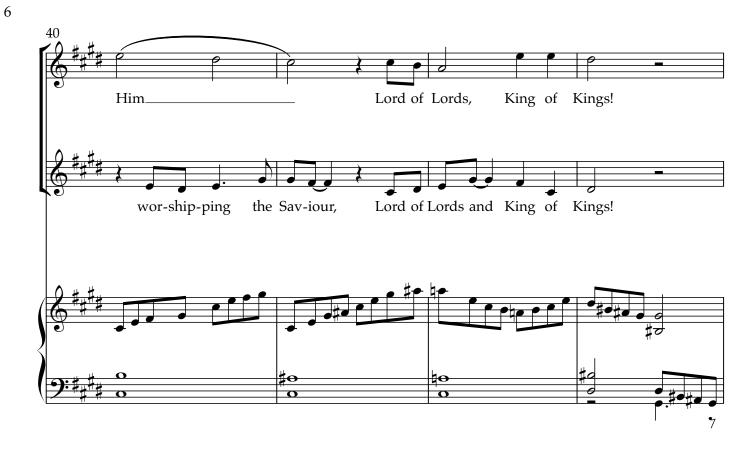


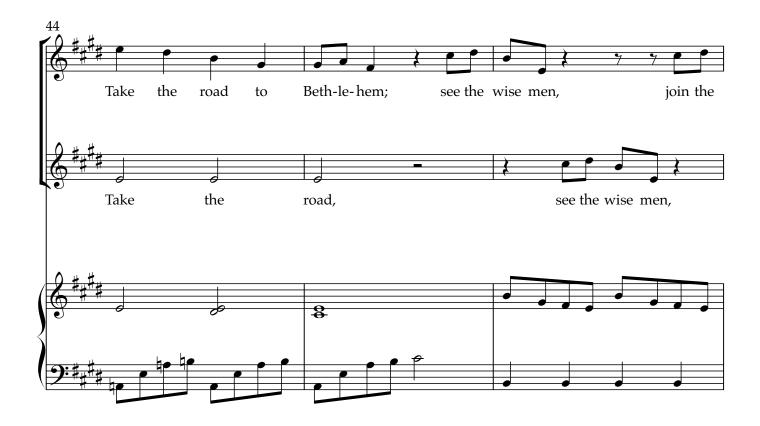


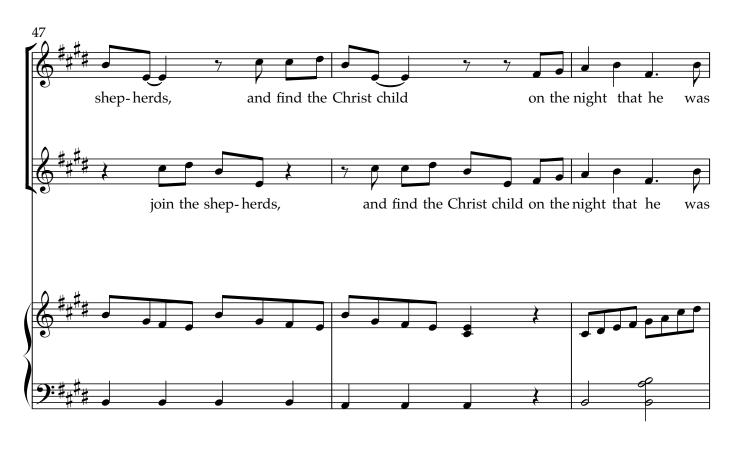


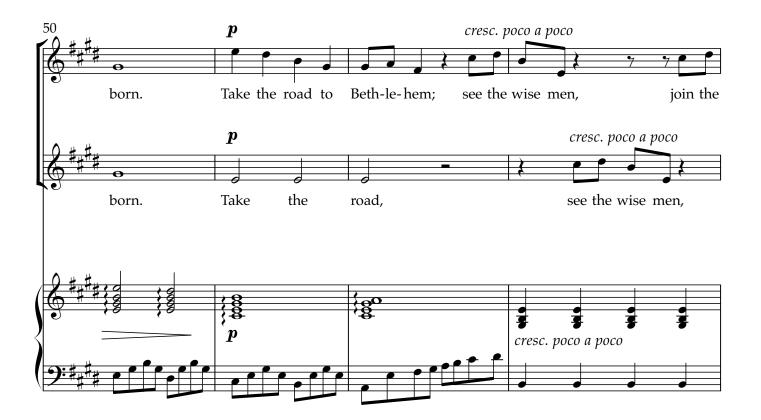


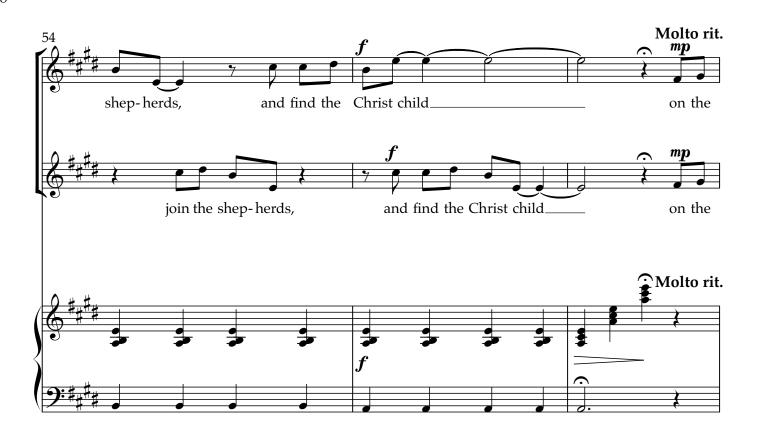


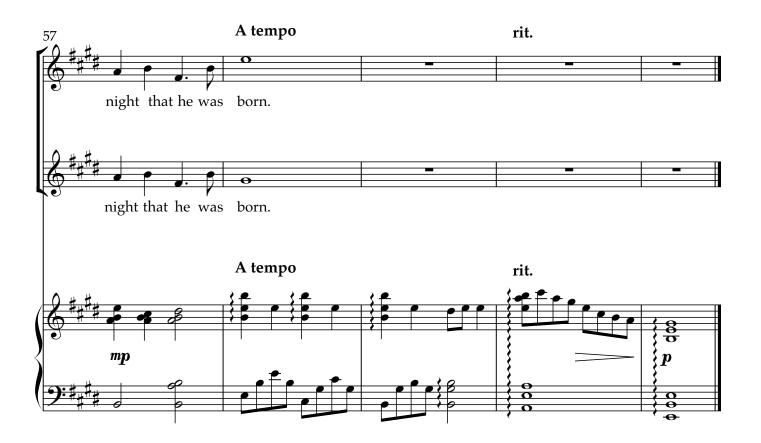






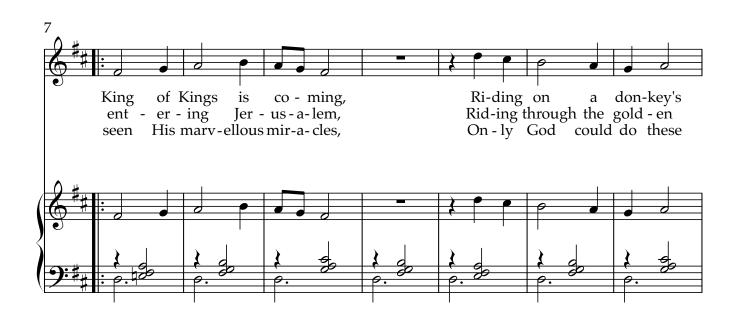






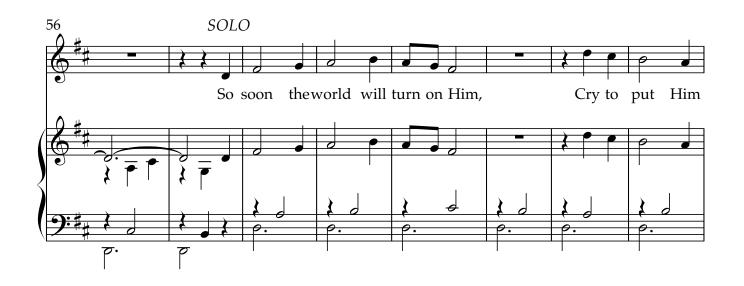
# The King is Coming

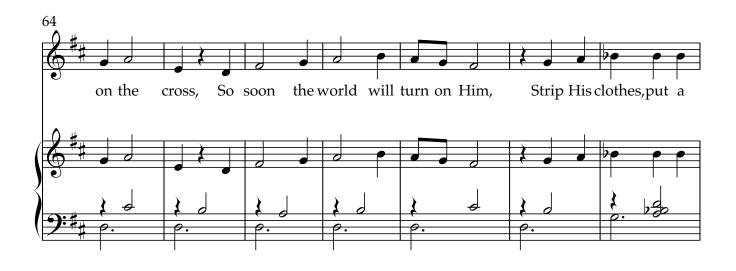


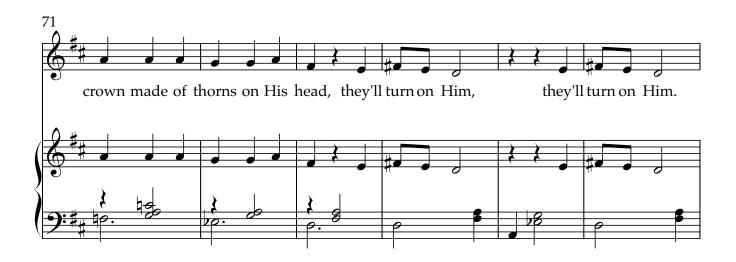


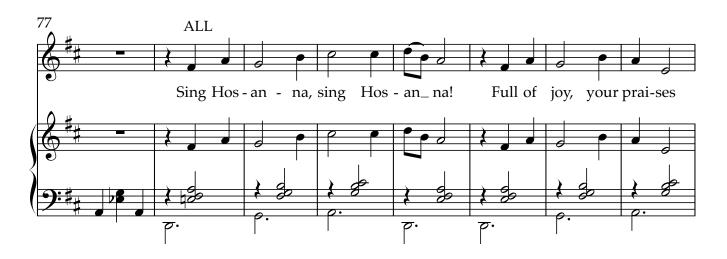


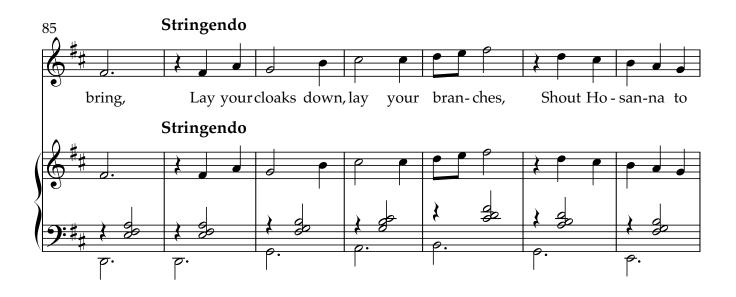








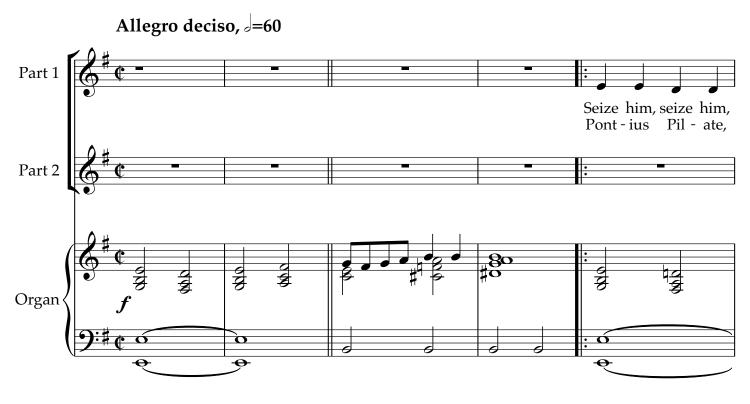


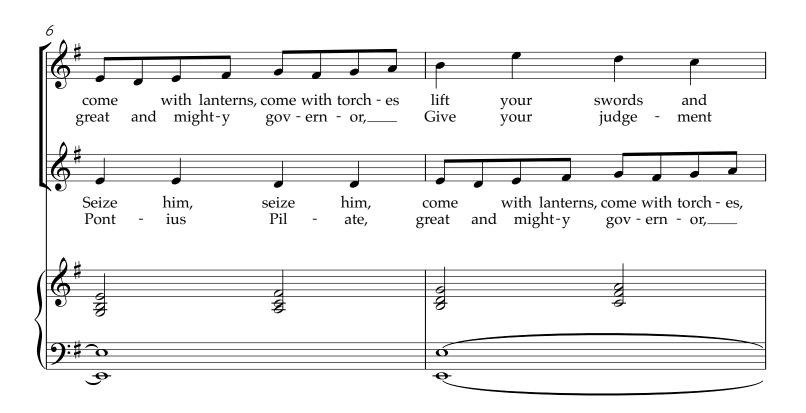


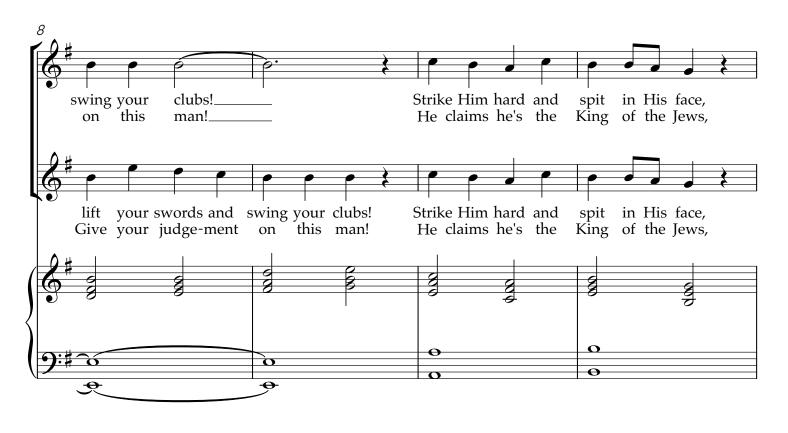


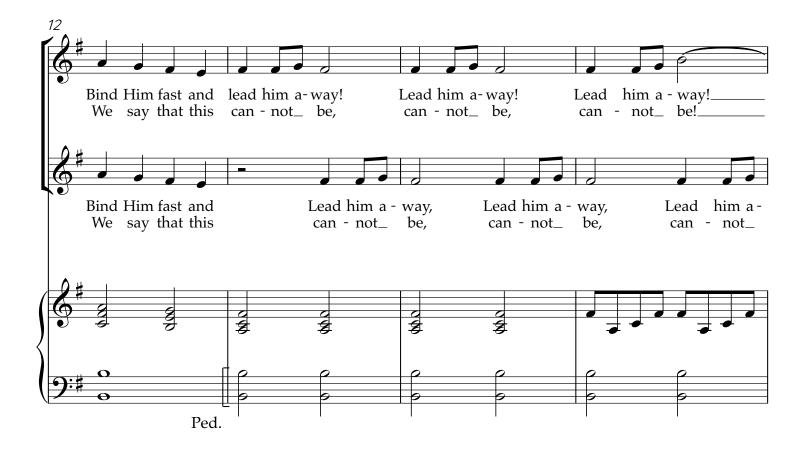


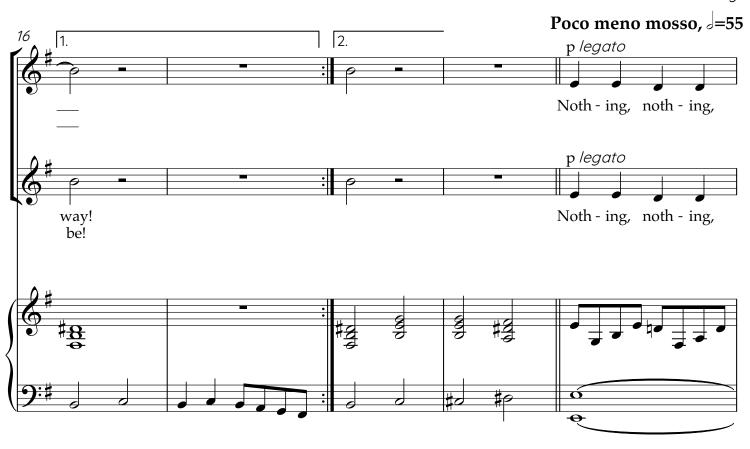
# Seize him!

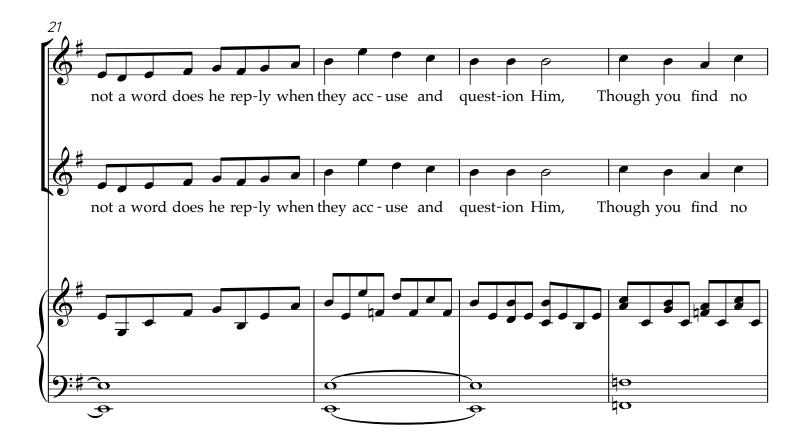


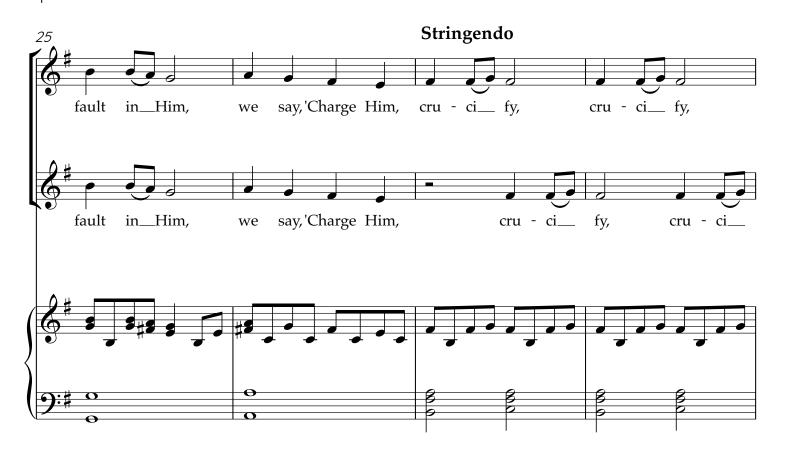


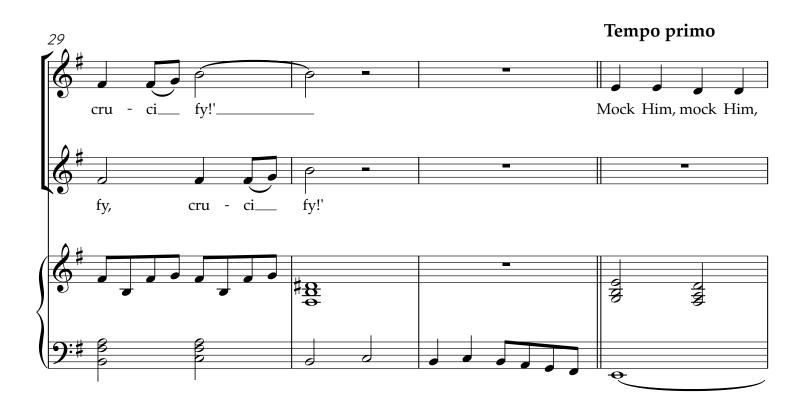


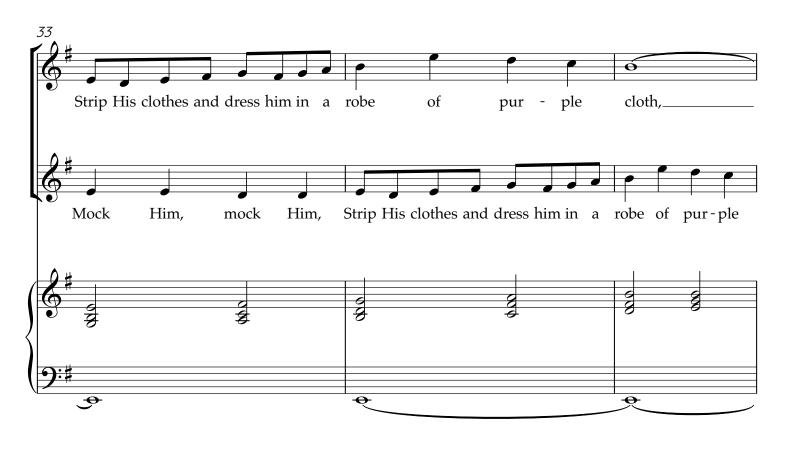


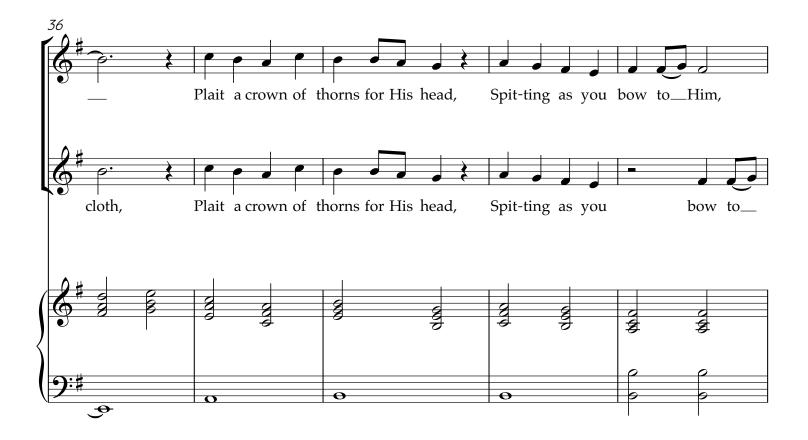
















### A Time to Rejoice! Readings

#### 1st Reading

Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

//

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Luke 1: 26–35; 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

//

#### Luke 2: 1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her

child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### 3rd Reading

#### **Matthew 21: 1-11**

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

//

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

#### 4th Reading

Mark 14:1,10; 43-46; 53-56; 60-61

After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death.

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money.

And immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely."

As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.

And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.

Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" But He kept silent and answered nothing.

#### 5th Reading

#### Luke 23: 13-21

Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

He answered him and said, "It is as you say." So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast). And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"— who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify Him!"

### 6th Reading: John 19:1-3; 16-30

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had

received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

#### 7th Reading

#### **Matthew 28:1-9**

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."