Ring and Sing the Seasons

Reproducible hymns for unison voices and 3 octaves handbells or handchimes

Arranged by
Karen Lakey Buckwalter
This reproducible collection is designed to meet the needs of handbell choirs by helping to stretch their music budgets. With the purchase of this collection, the original purchasing organization (church, school, or community ensemble) is granted permission to make copies as needed for their ringers. This permission to reproduce applies to this product only, and does not transfer to other churches or organizations.
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Preface

Having served 38 years in full time music ministry, I realized some of the most joyful moments were convincing choirs of all ages that they could ring and sing simultaneously. Although the children embraced this concept more readily, adult ringers warmed up to the idea over time! In some cases, the ringers rang and sang simultaneously, however, in other cases, a soloist or vocal choir sang the hymn tune accompanied by the handbell or handchime choir. (Should you find you are working with a choir that is less experienced and you have an adequate pianist available, feel free to double the accompaniment on the piano thus providing a more stable foundation for the ringers). This collection is comprised of both seasonal and general use hymn arrangements that I have composed using very simple rhythms and chords. Also included is an original processional, composed of layered ostinato patterns with alternate texts for General, Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter. Below are some suggestions for each arrangement:

The Bells of Christmas
In this gentle arrangement of a lovely Danish carol, I have added an optional flute part. Should you want an additional 3rd stanza, it is #298 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Christians, We Have Met to Worship
Found in the Chalice Hymnal, #277, this hymn text includes themes of Gathering, Rebirth, the Holy Spirit, God’s Word and Praise. Do not rush the tempo; rather allow for a lyrical rendition of this arrangement.

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven
This hymn, #564 in the Lutheran Book of Worship, is normally sung as an evening hymn. I have altered the second stanza of lyrics so it will be also appropriate for a Sunday morning with themes of Light, Work, Rest, Holy Trinity and Forgiveness. For those ringing on handbells, there are optional mallets with suspended bells in the last 2 measures.

He Is Born
This familiar French carol is found in The United Methodist Hymnal, #228. Several bells in the bass clef use mallets while keeping the bells on the table (C4, F4, C5). Those using handchimes may obtain a staccato sound by ringing the handchime while keeping one or two fingers laying across the side of the chime.

For handbell groups, there are optional mart lifts in both the opening and closing measures. Finger cymbals will add some sparkle to this already uplifting arrangement. I have found children really enjoy singing in different languages so please
note the optional French text on the refrain. With proper time and practice the choir should be able to both ring and sing the entire piece, however, you have the option of using a soloist during measures 17-24 where the accompaniment is slightly more complicated.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
This African American spiritual should be rung fairly slowly allowing the bass line to have a “walking” feel. Note that in measure 13 there is an optional lower note (C) in the vocal part if needed. The D7 in the last measure is optional.

Processional
Although I normally add the different ostinato layers from bottom to top, you may actually add them in any order. (Remember, if your ringers are not up to processing, they may instead be positioned throughout different parts of the room.) I would suggest adding all the bell layers, ringing each pattern 2 or 4 measures, before adding the next part and then adding the flute if one is available. Once the flute is in, you must ring enough measures to allow for the entire flute melody.

Finally, after the bells and flute, add in the vocal line which may be repeated as often as necessary. Two extra ringing measures have been provided to give the singers some rest if needed. This may also be sung as a canon should you wish to add more vocal choirs into the mix. If singing in a canon, omit the 2-measure optional interlude and repeat the vocal line immediately. It may be sung as a 2 or 3 part canon, at 1 measure intervals. Four stanzas of text have been provided, however, each stanza is for a different season of the year. At the end of the procession, bells may “fade” in reverse order or you may use the Coda provided to have everyone end together.

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
This joyful arrangement may be rung or played entirely with mart lifts, a favorite technique with children of all ages. Before rehearsing, remind ringers of the “empty” measure of rest in measure 28. Working on this spot first is strongly suggested. Ignoring it early on may cause constant problems with ringers jumping in accidently. We have opted to print this tune with the Easter text, however, there is also an Advent text to this tune (On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry).

This Is My Father’s World
A favorite hymn for both young and old, please ring this in a slow, gentle fashion. To avoid a low G in the vocal line in measures 14 and 23, the G one octave higher is suggested.

– Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Christians, We Have Met to Worship

Attr. George Atkins, 1793-1827; alt.

HOLY MANNA
W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Andante (\( \text{\textit{\textit{q}} = 88} \))

1. Christians, we have met to worship and adore the living God; will you pray with all your power
God supremely let us love each other too; let us pray for all earth’s people

2. Let us love our

A vocal part is printed on page 8.

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Christians, We Have Met to Worship

Vocal part

Attr. George Atkins, 1793-1827; alt.

HOLY MANNA
W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Andante \( \text{\( 4 \)} \) \( \text{\( 5 \)} \) \( \text{\( \text{mf} \)} \) \( \text{\( \text{\( q = 88 \)} \)} \)

1. Christians, we have met to worship, and adore the living God; will you pray with all your power?

2. Let us love each other too; let us pray for all earth’s people.

while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the Spirit

of the Holy One comes down; Christians pray and holy manna

at the table we’ll sit down; Christ will welcome us and serve us

will be showered all around.

living manna all around.
He Is Born

Joyfully ($= 120$)

Trad. 19th cent. French carol
tr. anonymous

IL EST NÉ
18th cent. French carol
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Vocal part

Handbells

Handbells or handchimes used: 20

3 octaves

Finger Cymbals

*The mart lifts in measures 3, 4, 36 and 37 are optional.

Handchime choirs: Do not do the mallet, mart or mart lift techniques on chimes. Substitute the following stopped sound technique for the malleted bells. Place the index finger (or thumb and index finger) firmly against the tines at the U opening while the chime is rung, producing a short, stopped sound. Substitute regular ringing for the mart lifts.

A vocal part is printed on page 12.

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The Bells of Christmas


arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

A vocal part is printed on page 17.
A flute part is printed on page 38.

Flute (optional)

Vocal part

Handbells

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1. The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav’n ly
2. This world, though wide and far out spread, could scarcely
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American spiritual

Andante \( ( \frac{q}{4} = 84) \)

Vocal part

Handbells

mp LV

Je - sus_______ to walk with me_______ In my LV

tri - als,_______ Lord, walk with me_______ In my LV

A vocal part is printed on page 21.

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That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

Lively ($\frac{d}{=} \text{ 63}$)

Vocal part

1. That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with our love.
2. O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our Easter.
3. O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter.

Handbells

*Optional: mart lifts may be used (if played on handbells).

A vocal part is printed on page 24.

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Processional

3 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 14

Bells may be added in any order followed by the flute and then voices. Each part may ring 2 or 4 measures before adding the next part. Repeat as often as necessary and then add the Coda at the conclusion of the processional or simply end the processional by fading each pattern in reverse order. This may also be sung as a 2 or 3 part canon with other choirs joining forces at a 1 measure interval. If sung as a canon, omit the optional interlude (measures 9 and 10) and repeat the vocal line immediately.

A vocal part is printed on page 29.

A flute part is printed on page 39.
Processional

Joyfully (\( \text{j} = 120 \))

Vocal part

**General:**
- Bells are ring-ing, choirs are sing-ing!
- Praise to Christ our Liv-ing Bread!

**Christmas:**
- Bells are ring-ing, choirs are sing-ing!
- See the Star that shines so bright!

**Palm Sunday:**
- Bells are ring-ing, choirs are sing-ing!
- Glo-ry, laud and hon-or raise!

**Easter:**
- Bells are ring-ing, choirs are sing-ing!
- Al-le-lu-ia! Joy out-spread!

Flute (optional)

Handbells

Joyfully (\( \text{j} = 120 \))
This Is My Father’s World

3 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 21

Andante ($\frac{q}{4} = 84$)

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

TERRA PATRIS
Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Vocal part

1. This is my Father’s world; and

Handbells

mp LV LV LV LV R

and

LV rit. LV

oh,

1. This is my Father’s world; and

2. This is my Father’s world; and

mf

a tempo

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A vocal part is printed on page 33.

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God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

St. 1. Reginald Heber, alt.
St. 2. William Mercer, alt., KLB

AR HYD Y NOS
Traditional Welsh
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Vocal part

Handbells

Dolce (\( \frac{1}{4} = 84 \))

A vocal part is printed on page 37.

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