

the chorister

R E S O U R C E S F O R M U S I C M I N I S T R Y

February/March 2018

Volume 69 | Issue 5

*Celebrating the 100th Anniversary
of the Birth of Helen Kemp!*



PLUS:

NEW SPRING
HANDBELL PIECES

WORSHIP ARTS
by Stacy Porter

CHOIR DEVOTIONS
by Jennifer Harvill


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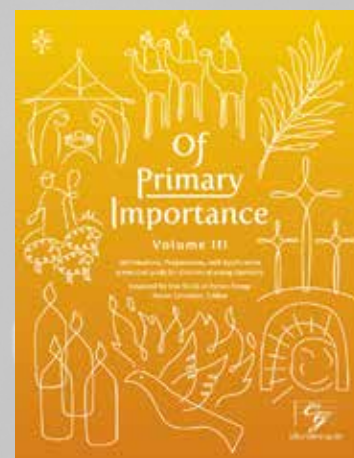
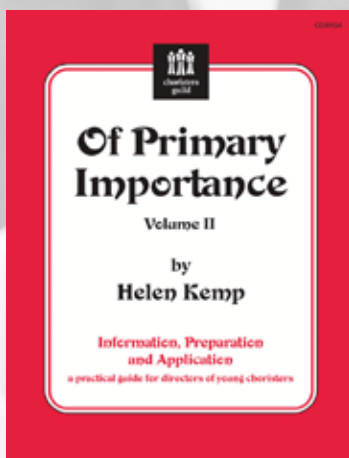
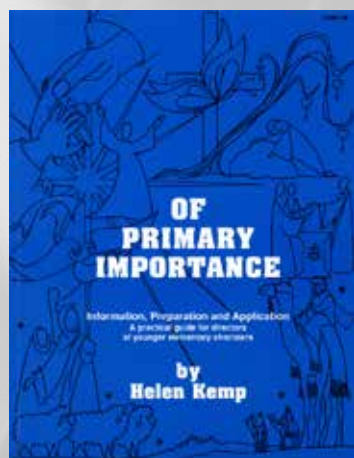
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I think that's the job of the Choristers Guild: to prepare leaders to do this job very well and keep feeding them with materials, ideas, leadership... We need a whole support group, continually.

- Helen Kemp



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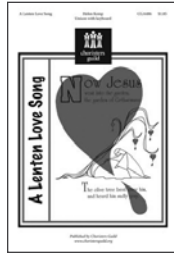
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It was probably 20 years ago. Terry Taylor directed the choir at the Georgia Baptist state children's summer music camp. He chose choral selections to highlight the seasons of the church year. ***That was my introduction to Helen Kemp's Lenten Love Song.***

My husband and I were part of a small church in rural southern Georgia – a brand new church with

only 80 or so members. We did not yet have a building, but rented a community center each week. I directed a wonderful group of middle school singers each Sunday evening. They were small in number, but eager to sing and lead in worship.

Believe it nor not, being Baptist and following the liturgical calendar is not all that common. Our worship planning team wanted to do our part to engage our small congregation in meaningful worship throughout the entire year, and so we began the process of education through our children's music ministry. Helen's haunting melody with the concluding chorus in Latin was a lovely presentation by our middle school choir during Holy Week.

Since moving away from that small town, I have tried to keep track of those now grown singers. The list includes a doctor, a teacher or two, a highway patrol officer, a physical trainer, a banker. Just today I saw a video one of the young moms posted on social media of her preschool little girl enthusiastically singing in a choir. When I think of those kids leading others in Lenten worship all those years ago, I think also of the far-reaching influence of Helen Kemp. She touched so many lives directly, and countless more through her music and leadership. Her legacy continues as we celebrate 100 years since her birth. I give thanks to God for the gift of this incredible woman. May we all give thanks as we continue to educate children and youth in music and worship!

Keep singing
the song!
-Susan



On the Shoulders of Giants

BY KATIE HOUTS, SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

One of the many reasons I appreciate the church year is its natural, cyclical rhythm. We walk this familiar road from Advent through Christ the King and the colors of the road are predictable, like the changing of seasons in our world. It's a one-way road, which is comforting; we know we're moving in the right direction. But because of our own personal growth, the path looks and feels different with each pass. Each part and person of our life's story affects our experience of God's Story.

The church year rhythm invites us to remember the giants on whose shoulders we stand. I'll often pass a "place" on the church year path that reminds me of someone important. During the Reformation 500 celebrations last year, I thought of my college mentor and organ professor, Dr. Karen Black. It was her creative, meaningful hymn introductions during chapel that inspired me to switch my major from Instrumental Ed to Sacred Music. When I accompanied performances of Handel's *Messiah* during December, I recalled my high school piano teacher, Ms. Susan Goodrich. Without using words, she taught me that being an accompanist is so much more than playing the correct notes on a page – rather, it's an engaged relationship between accompanist and performer, or accompanist and director, transcending the black and white.

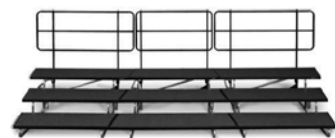
This past Epiphany, I finished work on a very special anthem. Entitled "Morning Stars, Singing Together," this piece was stuck in copyright permission limbo for many months. After finally receiving the copyright license, I am so pleased to share the news that Choristers Guild will be releasing **Helen Kemp's final anthem for children's choirs** this spring. "Morning Stars, Singing Together," was commissioned by First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, NC, which was the first congregation Helen served after graduating from Westminster Choir College in 1941. The anthem was premiered at the church during the Southeastern AGO Convention in the summer of 2015 – 74 years after Helen's first choir experience there.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of Helen's birth, we can't help but give thanks for her rich legacy and the impact Helen had on the world. To mark this special occasion, we have created the **Helen Kemp Choral Series**. This series will feature anthems which capture the mission and the heart of Choristers Guild: to nurture the spiritual and musical development of children and youth. Anthems in the HKCS will be especially good choices for annual choral festivals.

*For all the giants on
whose shoulders we
stand, we give thanks!*
-Katie



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A Window into the Wonderful World of Worship Arts for Kids

BY STACY PORTER

Are you looking for a new way to effectively engage students in your children's music program? Are you ready to try something different in order to reach more kids for Christ? Then a program like Worship Arts for Kids might be for you!

The stated purposes of First Baptist, Keller, Texas, are as follows: to exalt the Savior, to equip the saints, to encourage the believers, and to evangelize the lost. Although these purposes were already being met through the children's choir program, it became obvious to the Music Ministry that the program for grades 1-6 could be enhanced and invigorated. In 2008, under the direction of Rev. John Parker and Dr. Patty Nelson, the concept of Worship Arts for Kids was born.

In addition to singing, Worship Arts for Kids (WAK) is a program designed to teach children several ways to worship the Lord. As teachers, God has given us the responsibility to train and equip the next generation of worship leaders. In WAK the 1st – 6th grade children are not only exposed to the fundamentals of choir, but also various other aspects of worship arts. As they progress through our program, the WAKsters enjoy specialty elective classes such as Orff instruments, Boomwhackers®, handchimes, art, guitar, ASL, and handbells. As you contemplate a program like Worship Arts for Kids, there are several things to consider: supplication, staff, substance, schedule, space, and sharing.

SUPPLICATION:

Before you launch a new program of any kind, **PRAY**. When I began as Coordinator in 2010, I discovered that prayer had to be the highest priority. Bathe the children's music ministry in prayer asking God to show you His will in this new plan of action. Ask God to help you to be the best caretaker of HIS program. Philippians 4:6 reminds us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and SUPPLICATION with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

STAFF & SUBSTANCE:

As Children's Worship Arts Coordinator, one of my goals is to be a good steward of what the Lord has brought to FBC Keller. Like most churches, our WAK staff consists of volunteers. Not only do we need a director for each grade level, but we also need 5 different specialty elective teachers. Our program and its specialty electives has changed over the last 9 years according to the skills of the available volunteers. Our WAK offerings each year match the skill sets of the current volunteers.

What about your program? Look around you to see what the Lord has provided. Capitalize on the strengths the Lord has brought to your church. In past years, WAK has offered recorder class, drama class and movement class. Maybe you could revive a puppet ministry? Photography? Worship Tech/Media Ministry? You don't HAVE to follow the format of our program. Be bold! Be daring! Blaze your own trail for the Lord!



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SCHEDULE:

WAK meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00, September through May. Those 9 months are divided into five rotations of 5-6 weeks each. For the first rotation (September through mid-October), each grade level goes to their elective class from 6:00-6:30. Then the children have choir from 6:30-7:00. For example, 5th grade WAK has Orff class from 6:00-6:30 in room 222. At 6:30, the 5th graders go to room 216 for 5th grade choir time. The second rotation (late October through December) is choir for the entire hour. Because our WAK groups combine to sing in the adult Sanctuary

Choir/Orchestra Christmas program, we use the *WAK Choir Block* of time to prepare 2-3 Christmas songs so we can be ready by December.

After Christmas break, WAK resumes in January with the third rotation. This rotation is exactly like the first rotation of the year EXCEPT with a different elective for the first 30 minutes. The fourth rotation follows suit: a different specialty elective followed by 30 minutes of choir. By the time we get to the fifth rotation, the kids have choir for the entire hour from 6:00-7:00 again (just like the second rotation). This allows us to prepare for the WAK Spring Musical which is presented on our last night of WAK in May.

Here is a visual of our rotation schedule:

ROTATION	ART	BOOMS	CHIMES	GUITAR	ORFF	ASL
1	3rd grade	1st grade	2nd grade	4th grade	5th grade	X
2	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR
3	1st grade	2nd grade	4th grade	5th grade	3rd grade	X
4	4th grade	X	5th grade	3rd grade	1st grade	2nd grade
5	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR

*****SPECIAL NOTE:** 6th grade WAK does not rotate. They have choir & handbells every week. This weekly routine prepares them for Middle School Student Music Ministry.***

SPACE:

With 6 graded groups plus 5 specialty electives, space becomes an issue as we require several rooms. We are blessed that each graded WAK group has its own room. We also have a few separate rooms for dedicated specialty areas. Since the Orff instruments are not easily transported, Orff class is in a separate room. The same is true for our guitar, handchimes, and handbell classes. Our other electives such as art and Boomwhackers® can be brought to the graded group room. Again, customize and tailor your program to make it fit your ministry.

SHARE:

After rotations 1, 3, and 4, we have a special night called *Demonstration Celebration Night*. On these fun nights, we invite parents to come and observe what we have learned over the past 5-6 weeks. It is NOT a performance, but simply a demonstration. The main goal of the share time is to show parents that Worship

Arts for Kids teaches children to praise God with a joyful noise through playing instruments, art, singing, and leading others in worship.

We have presented Demonstration Night in two different formats. Several years ago, Demonstrations were held in the Sanctuary so that all groups could be featured at the same time and location. We found this method felt more like a 'performance' rather than a time of sharing. The actual demonstrations also seemed very short because time was wasted during transitions of groups and instruments. The perception was that a group only shared for 2-3 minutes. To better fit our goals, we decided to revamp Demonstration Night to become more intimate, focused, and intentional.

Rather than using the Sanctuary, we moved the Demonstrations to the classrooms. We decided to offer 2 different demonstrations in the same night so that parents with multiple children in WAK could divide and conquer. The first Demonstration featuring grades 1, 3 &

5 was held from 6:10-6:30. The second Demonstration featuring grades 2, 4 & 6 was from 6:35-6:55.

During a typical Demonstration, the children play 2-3 hymns or chant a scripture verse while the teacher explains to the parents what the children have learned. Sometimes the teacher will throw in a silly song or an energizer just for fun. After the students demonstrate



for the parents, the teacher will often ask the parents to become the learners. The kids LOVE when this happens! Mom & Dad get to learn to play a song on Orff instruments or handchimes. Parents receive a hands-on WAK experience. It is TONS of FUN! Using this format, the children really look forward to the Demonstration Celebration because it is low-key with no pressure. They usually don't realize the music education they have gleaned because they are having such a good time.

There are two more elements that make Demonstration Celebration Night special. First I post pictures on the church monitors of the WAKsters in action. Throughout the rotation period, I visit each WAK group and take pictures. Those action shots are compiled and added to the church monitors. When Demonstration

Night arrives, the children love to see pictures of themselves and their friends on the church monitors. Second—no celebration is complete without food! The Demonstration Celebration concludes with snacks for everyone. I usually provide a WAK Trail Mix of Goldfish crackers with plain M&Ms or a mix of Skittles and pretzels. When the night is over, both the children and their parents know that they have been genuinely celebrated and valued.

Although being called to serve in children's music ministry is a tremendous blessing, this calling is also a huge responsibility. If the Lord leads you to a new change in your program, do not be afraid! Joshua 1:9 reminds us, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." What a powerful reassurance we have as we journey through the process of training the next generation to worship! As leaders in children's music ministry, we have been given the awesome privilege of sharing God's Word and love through worship arts. Our passion must always be to reach one more for Christ. As we press on toward this goal, may we be found faithful in making God's praise glorious.



Stacy Porter, as Children's Worship Arts Coordinator, serves a program of over 170 children and 55 adults. Stacy is in her 8th year as Children's Worship Arts Coordinator and Fine Arts Academy Director for First Baptist Church of Keller located in Keller, Texas. She completed her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Sam Houston State University in 1990. Stacy has over 27 years teaching experience in the church, public schools, and in private instruction. Married to Matt Porter for more than 24 years, she is the mother of 3 sons. The Porter family resides in Keller, Texas.

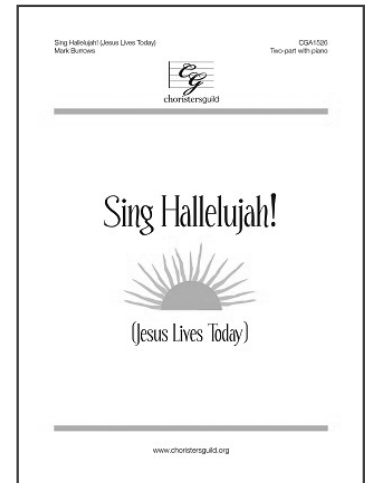
Anthem Feature

FROM THE CHORISTERS GUILD CATALOG

SING HALLELUJAH ! (JESUS LIVES TODAY)

by Mark Burrows | CGA1526 | Two-part with piano

USES & TIPS BY KATIE HOUTS AND SUSAN EERNISSE



ANTHEM DESCRIPTION

This joyful anthem from Mark Burrows is bursting with the good news of Jesus' resurrection! While an obvious choice for Easter morning, we know that families' travel schedules and Easter traditions often mean out-of-the-ordinary choir attendance on Easter Sunday. Mark crafted the message with this in mind. His anthem is a spirited way to celebrate Jesus alive and at work in the world beyond the day of resurrection. Mark includes a B section set to a familiar hymn tune (*ELLACOMBE*) with these original lyrics: "We sing Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for blessings without end. We sing Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for Jesus, Savior, friend. God's world is always filled with hope; God's love will never die. We sing Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Christ Jesus reigns on high."

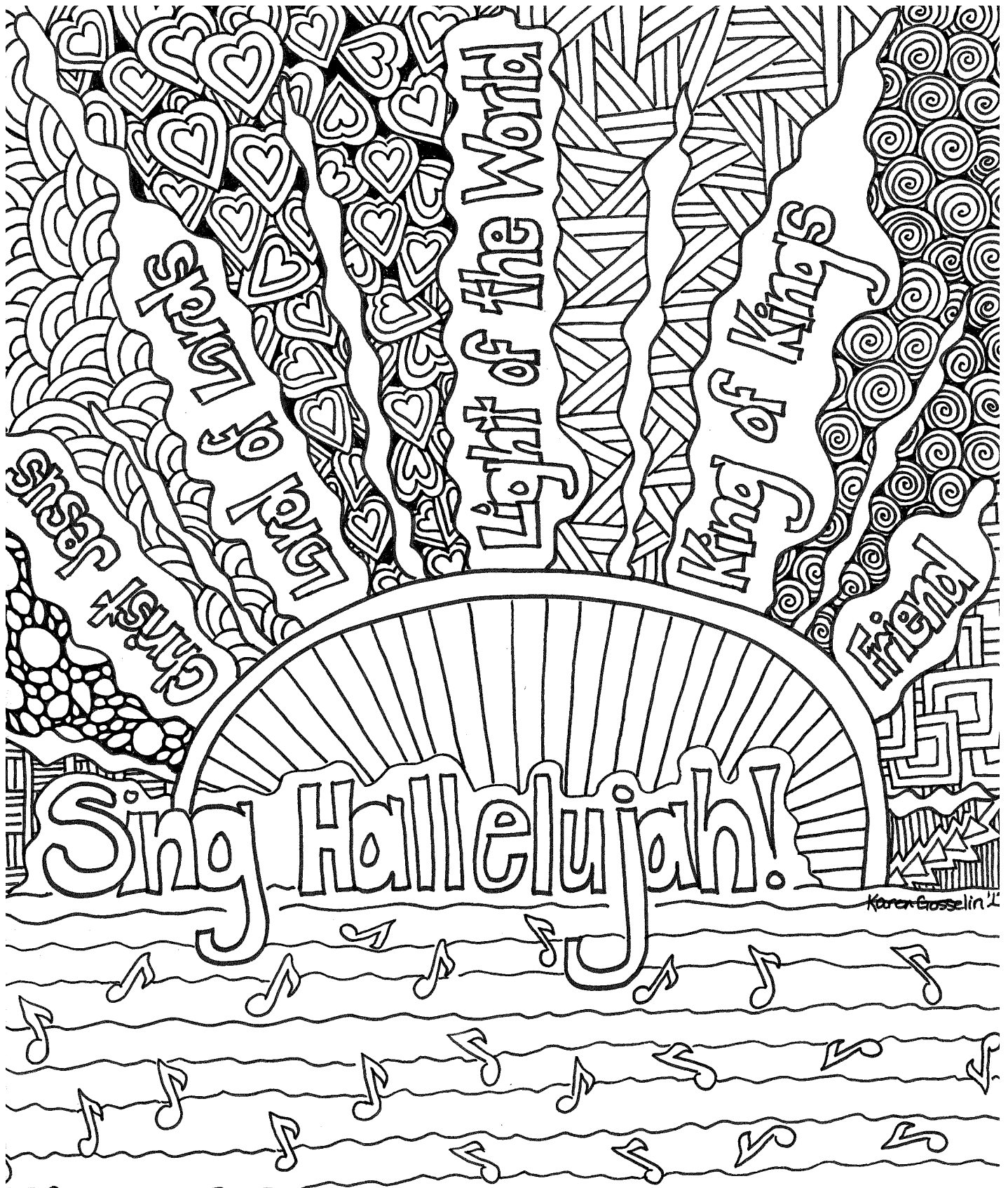
Program this piece any time during the upcoming Easter season, especially on Mother's Day or to mark the end of a successful choir season. A sparkling two-part echo is the melodic foundation, making this a great choice for a combined-age choir. It's also a smart selection to feature your choir's newly-acquired (or now confident) skill of part singing. The piano accompaniment is bell-like, and you might consider inviting older choristers to create a handbell or handchime ostinato to begin and end the piece. This anthem is a natural fit for Christ the King Sunday, so use your choristers' familiarity with the music to your advantage – and sing it again in November.

TEACHING TIPS

The "Sing Hallelujah" echo harmony section can easily be introduced through echo singing. You can keep the anthem very simple for less experienced singers by singing Part I in unison beginning at measure 8, or you can challenge your singers to master the simple Part II harmony.

The B section (beginning at measure 19) has a lightly syncopated pattern. Echo clapping the repeated rhythm without words or melody will help secure the success of that pattern. Play a game of Perfect Rhythm. Clap various rhythm patterns with this syncopated pattern mixed in at random. Children should only echo clap this pattern – The Perfect Rhythm, not the other patterns. If someone claps the wrong rhythm they must sit, but continue playing the game. The winner is the person(s) still standing when the game ends. Of course, everyone really wins since they all learn the syncopated pattern.

The central message of the anthem is clearly presented in the text. There are several names of Jesus – King of Kings, Prince of Peace, Light of the World, Lord of Lords. Have children locate all the different names in their printed music. We are also including a reproducible coloring page. Make copies for your singers, and encourage them to focus on the different names of Jesus as they color. Encourage children to bring the completed pages back and display them prominently as a reminder that Jesus lives today!



Reflections of Helen Kemp

BY KATHY LOWRIE,
CHORISTERS GUILD
HANDBELL EDITOR



Helen Hubbert Kemp
March 31, 1918 - August 23, 2015

Like countless others, I had the privilege of being awed and inspired by Helen Kemp at many classes, workshops, Choristers Guild seminars, and children's choir festivals. Each of those opportunities to cross paths and connect with Helen profoundly influenced me.

In my early church musician years I was also working at Augsburg Publishing House (later Augsburg Fortress Publishers) as a music editor. As we became better acquainted, Helen and I discussed possible publication ideas and I invited her to come to Minneapolis to spend a few days of creative time together. We reserved a conference room and spent time developing our ideas. Her husband John joined Helen for that initial trip to be supportive, and it was lovely to have him there as well. I especially remember the three of us going to a charming Italian restaurant one very snowy evening, with warm hearts in the midst of the cold. We had a wonderful time despite the winter weather.

As we worked together in that conference room, it became clear that Helen was just a bit intimidated by the idea of committing things to paper, as it seemed to have a certain sense of finality. This was probably in the early 1980s, when personal computer technology was in its infancy. When Helen observed the freedom

and flexibility offered by a word processor in the ability to easily add, delete and change things on the page, it seemed to unleash in her a creative freedom for capturing her ideas on paper that had been somewhat dormant. While we didn't completely finish the manuscripts during those days, the work we began later resulted in two published collections: *Let's Sing* and *Where in the World: Folksong Warmups from Many Lands*. The latter is still in print and available through Augsburg Fortress.





After those projects were finished Helen and I worked together on *Of Primary Importance* and *Of Primary Importance, Volume 2* (published by Choristers Guild.) We traveled to Dallas for meetings to work together on developing the first *Of Primary Importance* volume. By the time the second volume was developed, I was already working for Choristers Guild.

When I moved to Dallas to join the Choristers Guild staff, Helen and John hosted my parents and me in their home in Oklahoma City on our way. They were such gracious and welcoming hosts, and we had a delightful time together.

I also had the chance some years later to visit Helen in her home in Perkasio, PA. This was the home where Helen had grown up as a child, which she and John purchased in 1995 when the house came on the market. Helen's father, Edward Hubbert, ran the *Hubbert & Son Baseball Factory* out of this home. During those years, they stitched all of the baseballs for both the American and National Baseball Leagues. Helen sometimes helped to earn money for school.

In her later years Helen moved to a beautiful retirement community in Jamison, PA. In August of 2015 we enjoyed a lovely visit in her apartment there, actually less than three weeks prior to her passing. At 97 years young she was totally alert and engaging, with only some vision issues slowing her down. The next evening Helen's daughter, Kathy Ridl, brought her to Philadelphia to attend a hymn festival led by Dr. Anton Armstrong and Dr. John Ferguson, both dear and longtime friends. The festival was wonderful and Helen enthusiastically joined in the uplifting hymn singing!

Knowing I was planning to visit Helen, Anton suggested that I look closely at the table Helen's son, John, had built for her. The table was not only beautiful, but it was also very unique – the legs were designed in the shape of baseball bats!

When Helen moved into the retirement community, she organized and directed a choir. No surprise! Just imagine the amazing gift she gave her fellow residents as they joined together to share in the joy of singing!

Rather than Christmas cards, Helen chose to send Valentine letters and I was fortunate to be one of the recipients. Hearts were always special to Helen. It's not unusual that they adorned her valentine letters, but she also used them in many other ways. The day prior to her passing she filmed a promotional video for the Kemp Church Music Symposium (Westminster Choir College) sponsored by Helen in memory of John. The photo below (taken that same day) beautifully captures Helen's giving spirit, and in some ways serves as a farewell message to all who knew and loved her.



**-Kathy
Lowrie**



Handbell Notes

WHAT'S NEW FROM CHORISTERS GUILD HANDBELL MUSIC | SPRING 2018

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Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells with optional 3, 4 or 5 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Mitchell Eithun

Level: 3

CGB1039 \$5.50

Amen, Siakudumisa

Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God

Cathy Moglebust's arrangement of this Swahili song will be a joyous, uplifting, yet accessible addition to your handbell repertoire. Choirs will especially enjoy the extensive malleting and optional African percussion.

Voicing: Published in compatible editions for handbells with optional handchimes, djembe (or congas), caxixi (or maracas), and shekere (or other large shaker)

Arranger: Cathy Moglebust

Level: 2

CGB1035	Full Score	\$13.95
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CGB1037	3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves	\$5.50

Contemplation on Passion Chorale ***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded***

This moving setting of the tune PASSION CHORALE will add depth and meaning to Lent and Holy Week services. Arranger Sondra Tucker has skillfully woven in the hymn, *If You But Suffer God to Guide You*.

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells with optional 3 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Sondra K. Tucker

Season: Lent; Holy Week

Level: 3

CGB1042

\$4.95

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ***I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

Originally written for handbells and harp, this arrangement of the tune ELLACOMBE can be played by two handbell or handchime choirs, or one handbell or handchime choir with harp or piano. This piece would be a wonderful opportunity to get together with another handbell choir, or to have two choirs at one church play together, one choir playing bells and one choir playing chimes!

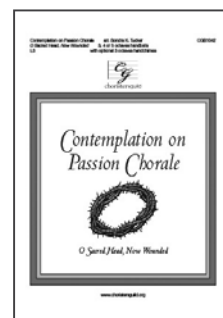
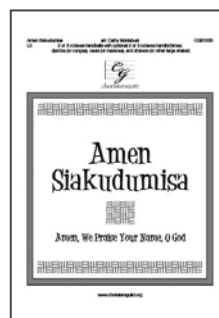
Voicing: Two handbell and/or handchime choirs (3, 4, or 5 octaves)

OR one handbell or handchime choir (3, 4, or 5 octaves) with keyboard or harp

Arranger: George Christ

Season: Palm Sunday or General

Level: 2



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CGB1052	Keyboard Score (substitute for Choir 2)	\$6.95

Lament

Evoke a feeling of grief and mourning to bring Lenten scriptures to life. The use of the harmonic minor scale (minor scale with a raised 7th) in *Lament* evokes anguish and sorrow.

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells

Composer: Karen Thompson

Season: General, Lent

Level: 2+

CGB1058	\$5.50
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Londonderry Air *I Cannot Tell; O Christ the Same; O Danny Boy*

The heartwarming Irish tune LONDONDERRY AIR is given a gentle, traditional treatment, and will be a very usable addition to the worship or concert repertoire.

Voicing: 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells and oboe (or other C Instrument)

with optional 3, 4 or 5 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Cathy Moglebust

Season: General

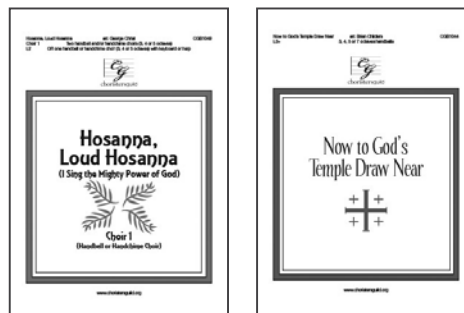
Level: 2+

CGB1041	\$5.95
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New Day

Composer Brenda E. Austin brings us this sparkling original composition full of wonderful techniques including echo, thumb damp and martelatto.

Composer: Brenda E. Austin



Level: 1

Published in compatible editions:

CGB1053	2 or 3 octaves handbells	\$4.95
CGB1054	3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells	\$4.95

Now to God's Temple Draw Near

Now to God's Temple Draw Near is a lively rendition of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", beginning and ending with a flourish of bells that will be exciting to ring and hear.

Voicing: 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves handbells

Arranger: Brian Childers

Level: 3+

CGB1044	\$5.50
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Peace *I've Got Peace Like a River*

This arrangement of the traditional Spiritual takes the listener on a moving melodic journey representing life's times of joys and times of challenge.

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells and optional 3 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Fred Gramann

Level: 2+

CGB1047	\$4.95
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Order resources online at www.choristersguild.org or call 800-CHORISTER (246-7478)

Handbell Music

Resilience

Inspired by Joshua 1:9, this piece is a musical painting of the journey of life, and of a resilient soul. Advanced choirs will love this beautiful and challenging composition!

Voicing: 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves handbells with optional 5th, 6th and 7th octave bass handchimes

Composer: Alex Guebert

Series: Master Ringer Series

Level: 4+

CGB1040

\$5.50

Sakura *Cherry Blossoms*

This hauntingly beautiful arrangement of the well-known Japanese folksong uses singing bell, optional bowed chimes and percussion to add to the ethereal atmosphere of the piece.

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells with finger cymbals, chime tree, suspended cymbal, and optional 3 or 4 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Brenda E. Austin

Level: 3

CGB1043

\$5.50

Steal Away, Swing Low

Two familiar spiritual hymns are combined to form this arrangement, which illustrates various portions of the texts referring to the underground railroad.

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells with optional 3, 4 or 5 octaves handchimes

Arranger: Cathy Moglebust

Level: 2+

CGB1046

\$5.50

The Storm Shall Pass *Introspection*

A beautiful original composition that will take ringers and listeners alike on a musical expedition.

Voicing: 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells with optional 3, 5 or 7 octaves handchimes

Composers: Jacob Erdman and Matthew Compton

Level: 3

CGB1038

\$5.50

Tower Praises

Beginning as though we were hearing tower bells from afar in the countryside, the middle section of this original piece is based on the historic English "method" of tower ringing known as "Plain Hunt Major."

Voicing: 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells

Composer: Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Level: 3

CGB1045

\$5.50

We Welcome Glad Easter

This happy and uplifting arrangement of ST. DENIO is fun and very accessible. Beginning ringers will enjoy using a variety of exciting techniques!

Voicing: 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells

Arranger: Brian Childers

Season: Easter, Eastertide

Level: 1

CGB1057

\$4.95



Order resources online at www.choristersguild.org or call 800-CHORISTER (246-7478)

Reproducible Handbell Collections

Chime Time

REPRODUCIBLE MUSIC FOR 2 OR 3 OCTAVES
HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS

A terrific new resource for developing handchime and handbell ringers in schools, community groups, and churches. The mostly original pieces range in difficulty from level 1- to level 1+, with the easiest titles incorporating only half and whole notes.

Voicing: 2 or 3 octaves handchimes or handbells

Composers: Dimitri Borniansky, Sandra Eithun, Linda R. Lamb, Kevin McChesney, Anna Laura Page

Arranger: Sandra Eithun

Contents: *Evening Light, Prelude to Sunrise, Processional Celebration, Processional Jubilee, Soliloquy, Song of Triumph (Fanfare), Tranquil Chimmings*

Levels: 1-, 1 & 1+

CGB1064

\$44.95

Our God Reigns

REPRODUCIBLE HYMN ARRANGEMENTS
FOR 12 BELLS (F5-C7) WITH OR WITHOUT
KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT

Requiring short amounts of rehearsal and fewer ringers, this collection of favorite hymns set for 12 bells and optional keyboard will become a "go-to" resource that your small or shorthanded ensemble can turn to time and again. The optional keyboard part offers a fullness to the settings when ringers are limited.

Voicing: 12 bells (F5 to C7) with optional keyboard accompaniment

Composer: John Darwall, Robert Jackson, Michael Praetorius, traditional melodies

Arranger: Sandra Eithun

Contents: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God; Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley; Morning Has Broken; Prelude on Kelvingrove; Rejoice the Lord Is King; That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright;*

Season: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, General

Levels: 1 & 2

CGB1056

\$54.95

Joyfully Ring

This reproducible collection includes joyous hymn arrangements and fun, upbeat originals by some of CG's most beloved composers. The delightful and easily-learned pieces will be very useful both for developing ringers and for more experienced groups needing music they can learn quickly.

Voicing: Compatible editions for 2-3 and 3-5 octaves

Composers: Susan E. Geschke, John Hatton, Margaret R. Tucker, Michael Praetorius

Arrangers: Cynthia Dobrinski, Sandra Eithun, Cathy Mokebust,

Contents: *Jesus Shall Reign, Processional and Bell Chime, This Day of Gladness, That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright (On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry, What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright), How Firm a Foundation*

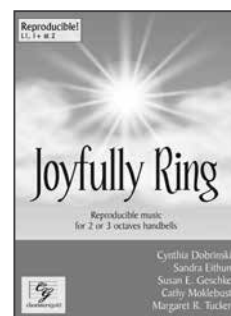
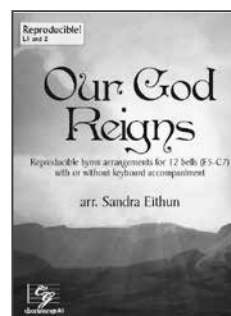
Season: General, Easter, Eastertide, Advent, Epiphany

Level: 1, 1+ & 2

Published in compatible editions:

CGB1061 2 or 3 octaves \$39.95

CGB1062 3, 4 or 5 octaves \$39.95



Order resources online at www.choristersguild.org or call 800-CHORISTER (246-7478)

More Things I Know for Sure

BY GRACE SCHWANDA

Worshiping God is why we go to church! I admit it took way too many years to get my focus on God and not the organ, piano, singing, leading choirs "etc. etc. etc." to quote the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I*. We go to church to worship our King and our God.

The singers and instrumentalists that we meet each week at church are also there to worship. This means we need to start our time together in prayer as we enter into this holy place. Do we really have 'space for God' in our busy time before church starts? We have choirs to prepare, organ stops to check one last time, wood blocks to put under the bench, pianos to uncover, singers to get in robes, noses to wipe! Is there a way for us to prepare our hearts for worship on such a busy day of the week for musicians and clergy?

#1 Making space for God in our daily lives'

A good way to start any day is with the Psalms, the original songbook. This year I'm praying and reading through *The Songs of JESUS: A Year of Daily Devotions*

in the *Psalms* by Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller. My source book to sing the Psalms in a variety of styles each day is the *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter For Worship*. Both of these resources have a prayer at the end of the Psalm that leads me into more prayer time for God's people and God's world.² The All Seasons book has each Psalm 1-150 with many arrangements of tune and text labeled A, B, C. – for example, Ps 23K.

#2 Take time to pray

There are many great verses that encourage prayer, and one of my favorites is I Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Be joyful always; PRAY CONTINUALLY; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Sometimes we don't have time to get on our knees, but we do have time throughout the day where we can pray. Talking to God is how we get to know God. Prayer is talking to God because God is our maker, defender, redeemer and friend. (O Worship the King by Robert Grant c., 1779-1838) It is hard to be friends if we never talk together. In Luke 18:1 Jesus' parable tells us not to get weary in prayer, but to be persistent as the



widow was with the judge. Cardinal Francis Arinze said, "the main idea is that the person who "prays always without becoming weary" is one whose whole day is like a loving *offertory procession* in God's presence. Such prayer of the heart implies that the person is constantly ready to do the will of God."³

#3 We can prepare our hearts during the week for worship

We usually have the opportunity to be together with our choirs during the week for rehearsals. The clergy provides us with the scripture for the weekend (months in advance) so at our rehearsal we may read, pray and study the Word. Our hearts would be prepared early in the week and our singing would show our understanding of the chosen scripture on Sunday. The hymns, praise songs and any other music would be practiced with new energy for sharing God's story with the community of believers. I once asked my 4th grade choir how I knew that the sermon was going to be about Jesus at the seashore, and that we would sing Lord, When You Came/Pescador de Hombres. Matt raised his hand and had a wonderful answer to my question, "You went to priest school!"

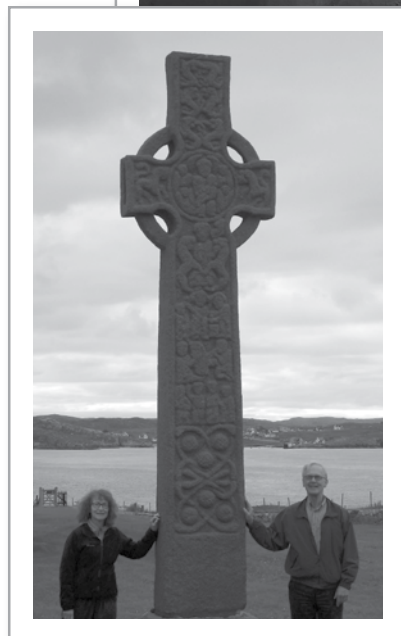
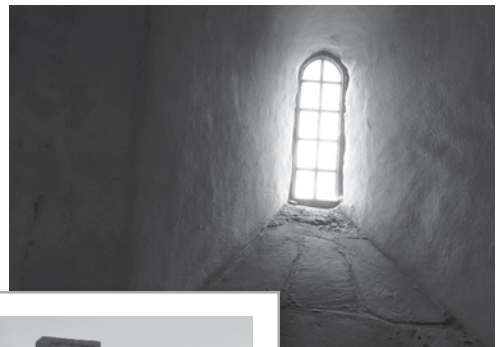
#4 Embrace Silence

Silence as we travel to church could be a good start. Be still and know that I am God! (Psalm 46:10) We could turn our minds and hearts to listening to God's still small voice, and after some silence sing softly to begin warming up our voices and our hearts. If there are others

in the car with us, we could mention prayer needs (ex: our family, our neighbors, our world, the sick), then all pray silently for that prompt, and the leader could finish each section with "Lord, meet us in the silence." All may respond "and hear our prayer".⁴

#5 Are we too busy working to worship the God who gave the SONG?

Our work is done before we sit down to play or sing. We've prepared to be musicians or clergy all of our lives (or at least for years) and we know why we are at the church, synagogue or temple. As leaders we are like a team coach. We practiced for the game and our team is ready. We could sit on the sideline and listen, but chances are we have to conduct or play an instrument. Our team is ready because we prepared their hearts and ours to worship God in holiness and truth. We are ready to worship God.



Photos taken on a visit to Iona, Scotland. Tom and I visited in June 2016. It is a wonderful place for a pilgrimage. Visit <http://www.welcometoiona.com> for more information.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
Come, let us bow down in worship!¹⁵
Venite!

1. Don Postema *Space for God: The Study and Practice of Prayer and Spirituality* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Bible Way, 1983)
2. Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller, *The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms* (New York: Viking, 2015)
Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2012)
3. Cardinal Francis Arinze, "On the Importance of Personal Prayer in Christian Life"
<https://www.ewtn.com/library/Prayer/arinzpers.htm> (accessed October 18 2016)
4. *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, pg. 326
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/newpatterns/contents/sectionf.aspx> (accessed May 17, 2017)
5. Psalm 95:1-6a



Grace Schwanda is a musician, composer, and teacher. She has led workshops for Choristers Guild, NPM, Calvin Symposium and ACDA. She led a session for The Hymn Society in America and Canada on Children's Music in Worship in the summer of 2016.

Chapter Events

March 10, 2018

SING FOR JOY! Children's Choir Festival
Fuquay Varina United Methodist Church
Fuquay Varina, NC
Clinician: Paul Flowers
Contact: Patti Cook pcook@firstcary.com
919-467-1861x226

September 27, 2018

"Energizing Your Rehearsals"
Mark Patterson will share quick tips, vocalises, and games that add instant energy to your Children's Choir rehearsals. He will also share teaching suggestions as we sing through the anthems for the 2019 Children's Choir Festival.
First Baptist Church 2709 Monument Ave
Richmond, VA 23220
Contact: Ruth Szucs szucs@fbcrichmond.org
Registration: Susan Marshall 2709 Monument Ave
Richmond, VA 23220

TO LIST YOUR CHAPTER EVENT

Send your listing to membership@mailcg.org with complete information. Include dates, location, clinicians, and contact information. For additional advertising, contact advertising@mailcg.org.

February 23, 2019

Richmond Area Chorister Guild Children's Choir Festival, Grades 3-5
Conductor: Mark Patterson
Contact: Ruth Szucs szucs@fbcrichmond.org
Registration: Marshall@fbcrichmond.org
Location: First Baptist Church 2709 Monument Ave
Richmond, VA 23220

Children's Choir Devotionals

BY JENNIFER HARVILL

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4

SCRIPTURE:

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31 NRSV (Extended reading Isaiah 40:21-31)*

DEVOTIONAL:

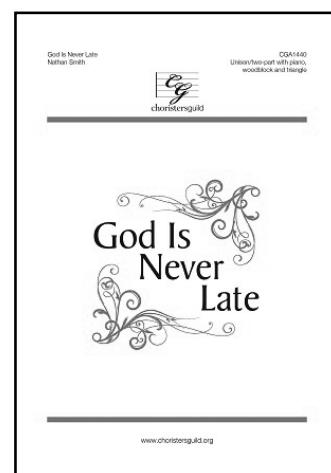
I am an avid lifelong learner. As my piano professor and I were leading the College of Fine Arts processional across the stage for the April 29, 2017, conferring of my Bachelor of Arts in Music degree, this Scripture was in my heart and head. It was the cornerstone of graduation program. Furthermore, our Alleluia Chorus Children's Choir would be singing this scripture in the anthem, "God Is Never Late" on Mother's Day. Many times in my life I have done things in an unusual order, using the back door rather than the front which would have been much easier. These words assure me that as long as I am keeping my eyes on Jesus, God's time is never out of time.

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for being so patient with us. As we grow and mature, we many times think that we know everything. Then something unplanned, whether good or bad, happens to cause us to remember that we are not in charge. Help us to learn to accept instruction while we are waiting. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1440 *God Is Never Late* by Nathan Smith, unison/two-part with piano, woodblock, and triangle



***Jennifer Harvill** has been involved in music ministry since Kindergarten when she first began singing in worship and playing the piano at the Luana Methodist Church in Luana, Iowa. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music Summa Cum Laude from Concordia University Texas in Austin, Texas on April 29, 2017. She is a 2014 graduate of the Choristers Guild Institute where she was awarded her Certified Director of Young Singers (CDYS) professional designation for grades K-8. Jennifer also earned a liberal arts baccalaureate (1989) and Master of Public Administration (1992) degrees from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Currently as Children's Choir Director at First United Methodist Church in Round Rock, she teaches the Alleluia Chorus Children's Choir (K-5th) how to praise the Lord with singing while striving for excellence. She is also the Assistant Director/Accompanist for FUMC-RR's Youth Choir (6th – 12th).*

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11

SCRIPTURE:

And he was transfigured before them [Peter and James and John], and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. *Mark 9:2b-3*

(Extended reading Mark 9:2-9)

DEVOTIONAL:

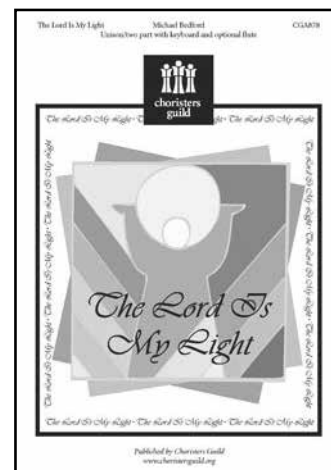
Jesus is Light! When I am afraid in the dark, either the dark of the night or the dark hopelessness of a situation, I try to turn my heart and thoughts to Jesus. I feel an instant peace and calmness. God's Word is a lamp unto my feet if I remember not to allow worries to stifle this biblical truth. Through Christ I can accomplish all things – big or small. God helps me put things into perspective and concentrate on Jesus as light, truth, and all things good.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, help us to turn to you whenever we cannot see the light for whatever reason. Please forgive us and help us to turn our hearts and minds around to Jesus Christ, your eternal light sent into the world to redeem us. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA878 *The Lord Is My Light* by Michael Bedford, unison/two-part with keyboard and optional flute



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18

SCRIPTURE:

And the Spirit immediately drove him [Jesus] out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. *Mark 1:12 NRSV* (Extended reading Mark 1:9-15)

DEVOTIONAL:

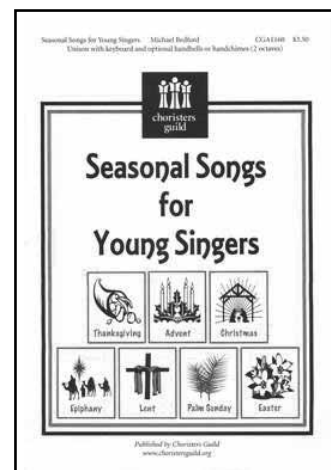
This first Sunday in Lent seems very dark compared to last Sunday's Transfiguration. Why did Jesus have to go through forty days and nights of temptation? Why do we have to go through dark times? Jesus understood why he was put here on earth – to be the Lord and Savior of all humankind. During the difficult times of sadness and loss we encounter in life, we are not alone. Jesus has been there before us and is waiting for us to call upon him in our darkest despair.

PRAYER:

God of Light, guide our footsteps day by day when our paths do not seem to be well-lit. Keep us focused upon your Word and precious promises. Help us put our faith into action, knowing you are always with us. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1160 "Forty Days and Forty Nights" from *Seasonal Songs for Young Singers* by Michael Bedford, unison with keyboard and optional handbells or hand chimes



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25

SCRIPTURE:

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! *Psalms 22:22, 26 NRSV (Extended reading Psalms 22:23-21)*

DEVOTIONAL:

The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi is straightforward and timeless. "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon." This prayer is a sensitive poem which instructs us to turn the other cheek when we are dealt an unfair hand and to always do unto others as we would have them do unto us. If we would try to simplify our lives, as Saint Francis did, we would perhaps find that striving to live like Jesus lived while walking this earth, although difficult, is indeed possible and well worth the effort.

PRAYER:

Dear loving Father, help us to focus our daily lives on those things which are good and of your peace. Open our eyes to new ways of looking at things, so that we can love and understand others in difficult situations. Give us songs of hope to share as instruments of your peace. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA242 *Prayer of St. Francis* by Helen Litz, unison/two-part and harp or keyboard



WEEK OF MARCH 4

SCRIPTURE:

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. *Psalms 19:1-2 (Extended reading Psalms 19)*

DEVOTIONAL:

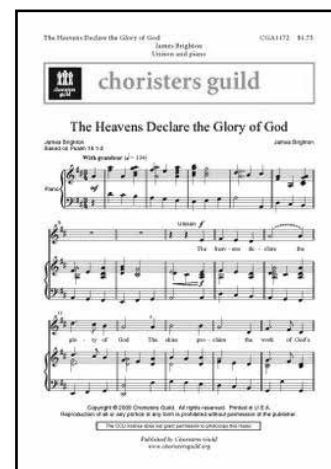
The recent total solar eclipse reminds us of the psalmist's awe as he looked up into the heavens which he understood glorifies God in Creation and the Law. God is the master engineer of everything that we behold in nature. God is the author of mathematics, science, astronomy, biology, and the music of the spheres. God has given us the Bible to guide us. When we realize God's supreme authority and majesty, we are humbled that God would send his beloved Son to take upon himself the sins of the world.

PRAYER:

Dear Creator God, accept our gratitude for your daily guidance and care, even when we forget that you are always with us. When we look up into the heavens, may we be reminded that you are everywhere in the universe. Remind us to be still and call upon your name. In your precious Son's name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1172 *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God* by James Brighton, unison and piano



WEEK OF MARCH 11

SCRIPTURE:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Psalms 107: 1, 21-22 (Extended reading Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22)

DEVOTIONAL:

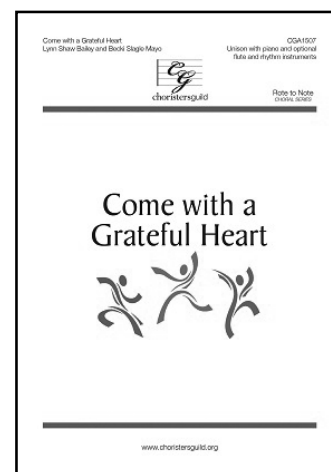
Every week in children's choir we talk about "Why We Sing." We read verses from the many Psalms which instruct us to praise God and give thanks to the Lord. This is not easy to do when things are not going well. The psalmist tells us we are to praise God with songs of joy no matter our circumstances or how we feel. When difficulties come, remember that God is only a prayer away. As you pray and sing songs of praise, your hearts will be lifted and burdens will become lighter or entirely disappear.

PRAYER:

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Open our hearts, O God, to your mercy, forgiveness, and unconditional love, so that we may unburden ourselves and sing from the heart with joy to worship you. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1507 *Come with a Grateful Heart*
by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo, unison with piano and optional flute and rhythm instruments



WEEK OF MARCH 18

SCRIPTURE:

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. *Jeremiah 31:33*

(Extended reading Jeremiah 31:31-34)

DEVOTIONAL:

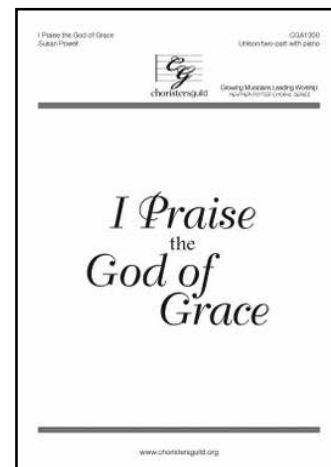
When we write on a dry-erase board, we can remove what we have written with an eraser. Jeremiah tells us that God's new covenant would not be like the one that he had made with their ancestors in Egypt. God said this time he would write his law on their hearts. We cannot easily erase the gifts and promises God has put upon our hearts. The best and lasting gifts are God's spiritual gifts which cannot be confined to a bright, shiny package.

PRAYER:

Almighty God, although we cannot see you, we know that you are with us. One of your greatest promises is that you will never leave or forsake us. Thank you for the opportunity to approach you in prayer at any time or any place. Thank you for this great comfort. Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1300 *I Praise the God of Grace*
by Susan Powell, unison/two-part with piano



WEEK OF MARCH 25

SCRIPTURE:

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!" *John 12:12-13 (Extended reading John 12:12-16)*

DEVOTIONAL:

During the music class before Palm Sunday, we were reading a children's Bible story about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. One of our choristers, new to our church, did not know about the events of Palm Sunday. We started discussing the differences in meaning between the Hebrew words Hosanna and Hallelujah. Unlike "Hallelujah!" which means to "Praise the Lord!", "Hosanna" means "Save us, Lord!" Those who were showering Jesus with palm branches seemed to sense that Jesus had come to Jerusalem, not to be crowned as an earthly king, but

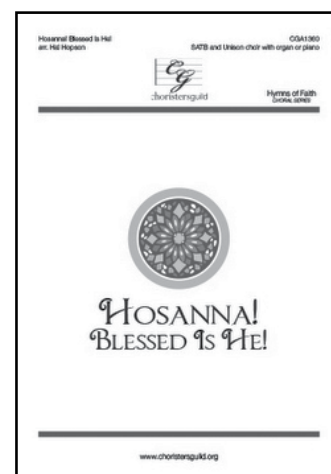
to be a suffering servant and die as an atonement sacrifice for the sins of all humankind.

PRAYER:

Dear God, as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, help us to remember that Jesus also wants to enter our hearts and lives. Thank you for first loving us and extending the open invitation to us to love you back. Hallelujah! Amen.

COORDINATING ANTHEM:

CGA1360 *Hosanna! Blessed Is He!* arr. Hal Hopson, SATB and Unison Choir with organ or piano



Alleluia Chorus Children's Choir of First United Methodist Church, Round Rock, Texas

From the National Board: *Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice*

It was 1992 and our youngest son was struggling to memorize his home phone number as a requirement for passing Kindergarten. The more he tried the more frustrated he grew, and his self-worth diminished. I recommended he memorize the numbers to a tune. On test day, he sang his phone number to his teacher who shortly thereafter called to say it was the first time she had ever had such a melodious rendition of child's phone number! He passed!

In 1999 one of my former youth choir members came by my office for help with planning for their upcoming wedding. Years earlier in choir we had learned the Lloyd Pfautsch anthem "If Anyone Be in Christ" which quite honestly was rap music before the genre was so named. The anthem is a choral and syncopated verbalization of the 2 Corinthians 5:17 text. Perhaps not the best fit for a wedding text, but the fact is that message stuck with them... and has to this day...in the same rhythm Pfautsch penned it.

These personal examples are why I am such a strong believer in Choristers Guild, her mission, and the effects directors have on the church musicians we teach. The CG resources, anthems, and musicals all contribute so effectively to our calling as church musicians...and are so timeless. A case in point, I still use the Anton Armstrong vocalises from the August 1990 edition of *The Chorister*.

CG is in a strong place. Our new Executive Director, Dawn Jantsch, has brought her immeasurable knowledge of non-profit management and organization that have left your board awestruck at the differences she has made in her short tenure. The editors and staff are beyond reproach; we have strong stability, and we are head on incorporating our mission into everything thing we do. Our mission of enabling leaders to nourish the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth is incorporated into everything we do, from our educational programs of the CG Institute, to our webinars and this magazine, as well as through our publishing of beautiful music that can be used in children's, youth, and adult choirs. And, your board is committed to seeing CG into her best years as we begin a season of strategic planning.

That said, we need your help as we continue in our commitment to our mission. So many of us have taken skills learned from Choristers Guild directly into our choirs...and it has changed how we teach and direct. Won't you consider making a standing donation this amazing nonprofit? A number of our members have also committed to Choristers Guild in their estate planning. Join us in assuring the continued commitment that this organization has had since 1949. You are our success.

I'm humbled by the confidence the board has given as I take the reigns as president of the CG board. We owe our gratitude to our past president, Teri Larson, who led us through a transition period and the hiring of our new Executive Director.

Look for coming detailed information in your emails regarding the summer Choristers Guild Institute, celebrating her tenth anniversary!

May your Lenten season be full of hope, peace, joy and love filled with voices singing us a little closer to heaven. May the texts and melodies of the music engrain themselves fully into your singers in **body, mind, spirit and voice!**

Terry Goolsby,
President, Choristers
Guild Board of Directors



Orff Instruments and Your Children's Choir

It's a Beautiful Match!

Over the past 50 years, the philosophy of Carl Orff has swept the country and is gradually, happily, infiltrating the church setting. The Orff approach is so effective because it celebrates the ability and creativity of each individual child. All children contribute, whatever their level of ability. Check out our newest resource book, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, by expert Orff educator and CG member Darla Meek, as well as the charming anthems in our "Voices with Orff" series.



All Things Bright and Beautiful

Scripture Songs for Children with Orff Instruments
By Darla Meek

This exciting new collection contains nine foundational Bible verses set to music with Orff and other percussion instruments. Songs span the choir season (September through May), and each monthly song unit includes full teaching plans. A wonderful, practical resource for incorporating Orff into your choir rehearsals throughout the year!

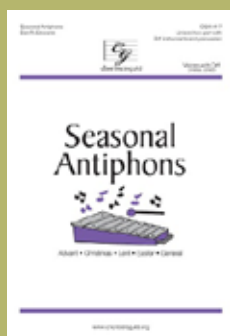
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Voices with Orff Anthem Series

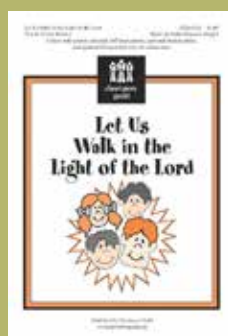
Explore all anthems available with Orff accompaniment by visiting www.choristersguild.org and searching for "Orff".



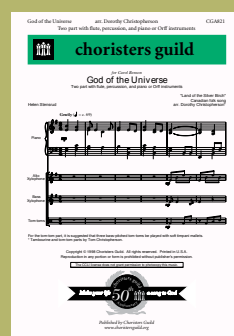
NEW! CGA1527 Do You Hear the Shepherd?
by Kimberly Ingram



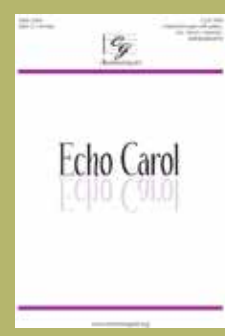
CGA1417 Seasonal Antiphons by Dan R. Edwards



CGA1125 Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord
by Vicki Hancock Wright



CGA821 God of the Universe, arr. Dorothy Christopherson



CGA1317 Echo Carol
by John Horman



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THE CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE

July 16-20, 2018 | Wingate University, Wingate, NC

**This is the 10th anniversary of the Institute –
alumni are encouraged to attend!**

Registration for Year I, II, III and alumni is now open.

Visit www.choristersguild.org for more information.



Dr. Madeline Bridges is professor of music in the School of Music at Belmont University, Nashville, TN, teaching music education and serving as director of the Nashville Children's Choir program. She has taught music and music education in classrooms from kindergarten through the graduate level. She is a sought-after conference leader and guest conductor throughout the United States. Dr. Bridges, along with Dr. Michael Hawn, envisioned and launched the Choristers Guild Institute in 2009.

