

# WE GATHER TOGETHER

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied \*

Words and Music by  
**DAVE and JEAN PERRY**  
(ASCAP)

Incorporating the **TALLIS CANON**  
by **THOMAS TALLIS** (1505-1585)

In festive praise (♩ = ca. 116-120)

ACCOMP.

*mf*

Pedal carefully.

4 SOPRANO *mf* (5)

ALTO

TENOR *mf*

BASS

We gath - er - - to - - geth - er - - to - -

7

O mighty Lord,

praise You, O Lord, - - - - Our hearts ev - er

\* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16050.

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10

*f*

faith - ful, our voic - es for - ev - er strong. With

*f*

13

hymns of thanks - giv - ing we praise You ev - er - more.

16

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

We gath - er to - geth - er to

19

O might - y Lord. —

(21)

praise You, O

Lord. —

Our rock

and our

*mp unis.*

22

help in years gone by, —

Our

*mp unis.*

25

hope and sal - va - tion through each day, —

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

28 *mf* (29) *cresc.*

A pil - lar of strength, a

*mf* *cresc.*

*mf* *cresc.*

31 *f* *cresc.*

bea - con shin - ing bright, Our guide through the

*f* *cresc.*

*f* *cresc.*

34 *ff* *mf unis.*

dark - est of nights. We

*ff* *mf unis.*

*ff* *mf*

37

thank You, O Lord, for the bless - ings of the year,

O Lord,

40

*unis.* For food, and for shel - ter,

*unis.* for

43

*mp*

*mf*

45

Oo The world in its

those whom we hold dear,

46 *sub. mp unis.* *mf*

beau - ty, all crea - tures, great and small, We

*sub. mp unis.* *mf*

*sub. mp* *mf*

49

thank You, O Lord, God of all.

52 Soprano & Tenor Unison *mp (as a prayer)*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise

Alto & Bass Unison *mp (as a prayer)*

Praise God, from whom all

*mp*

55

Him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise  
bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures

57

Him a - bove, Ye heav'n - ly host, Praise  
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, Ye

59

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly  
heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and

61 *poco rit.* 62 *a tempo*

Ghost.

Ho - ly Ghost.

*poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*cresc.*

64 SOPRANO *mf* 66

ALTO

TENOR *mf*

BASS

We gath er to -

67 O might-y Lord, \_

geth er to \_ praise You, O Lord, \_ With



10  
70

hymns of thanks - giv - ing we praise You ev - er - more.

73

We gath - er to -

*f* (74)

We gath - er

76

geth - er, We gath - er to

*ff unis.*

to - geth - er,

*ff unis.*

79

praise You, O Lord!

**We Gather Together** is a jubilant anthem of thanksgiving that is especially appropriate for harvest services, Thanksgiving Day, services focusing on the environment, or any celebration of the great bounty of God's creation. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 3: 1-12, Psalm 103: 1-13, Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43, and Romans 8: 19-25. One basic homiletical theme is reaping the fruits of God's salvation through a life of dedicated Christian service.

The syncopations that enliven this festive praise anthem are regular and easily taught. In rehearsal, first speak the text in mm. 4-20 lightly but intensively as the accompaniment plays the supportive underlying eighth-note pulse. Next, sing the melody in unison, rehearsing until the text and rhythm are precise. After adding the vocal parts as written, further refine the ensemble by rehearsing the vocals on staccato "doo" until the rhythms are perfectly aligned.

The formal structure of this anthem is A B A' C A" with sectional contrasts as follows:

- A - mm. 1-20**      legato, but with a feeling of lightness and rhythmic vitality
- B - mm. 20-36**      a more flowing legato, with vivid dynamic shading
- A' - mm. 36-51**      as for mm. 1-20
- C - mm. 52-61**      the Tallis canon, sung in two parts (S/T, A/B)
- a more flowing legato, sung as a quiet but fervent prayer,
- with a basic feeling of two pulses per measure
- A" - mm. 62-end**      final statement of A theme plus coda; as for mm. 1-20

**Dave and Jean Perry** live in Mesa, Arizona, where Dave is Chairman of Performing Arts at Mountain View High School and Jean is Director of the Chapel Singers at Grace United Methodist Church and an elementary music teacher at Holmes Elementary School. Active as choral composers and clinicians, they have over one hundred sacred and secular choral works in print.

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