

**Prayer at the Manger** is a gentle Christmas anthem that partners a new melody with the traditional carol tune “Cradle Song,” popularly known as “Away in a Manger.” Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 9, Isaiah 9: 1-6, Luke 2: 1-14 and Titus 2: 11-14. One basic homiletical theme is journeying to the manger in prayer and thanksgiving for God’s great gift of love, His Son Jesus Christ.

In rehearsal, strive for a very expressive legato and a general feeling of one pulse per measure. Sing the “alleluias” (e.g., mm. 24-30) with movement towards and a stress on the third syllable (“lu”), and avoid the tendency to accent the final syllable (“ia”). To clearly delineate the moving eighth notes in mm. 36-48, rehearse this section on staccato “doo.” Add the text and sing legato while maintaining clean articulation of the moving voices.

**Nancy Price** holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College. She began singing in elementary school choirs directed by Don Besig and in her senior year of college first worked with him as a lyricist. Since 1980 they have collaborated on over two hundred fifty compositions for school and church. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special awards.

**Don Besig** is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York. Recognizing a need for choral music written especially for student singers, Besig began composing for his own choirs. Since 1973, over four hundred of his compositions and arrangements have been published.

# PRAYER AT THE MANGER

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,  
with optional flute (or C-Instrument)\*

Words by DON BESIG  
and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Incorporating *AWAY IN A MANGER*  
Music by DON BESIG (ASCAP)

Gently (♩ = ca. 84 - 88)

FLUTE

ACCOMP.

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes a Flute part and a Piano Accompaniment (ACCOMP.) part. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system introduces the Unison Men part, starting at measure 8. The lyrics for the Unison Men part are: "Bright is the song that rings through the".

8 UNISON MEN 9 *mf*  
Bright is the song that rings through the

\* Part for flute or C-Instrument may be found on page 12.

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12

night, tell - ing the world of a won - der-ful

17

sight. Bright is the star that shines high a -

20

bove, lead - ing us all on a jour - ney of

24

SOPRANO

*mf* unis. 25

ALTO

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia we

TENOR

BASS

love.

25

*mf*

28

sing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia for the joy and

*mf*

28

32

peace that He brings.

(tacet)

32

36

\* *unis.* 37

We come to a sta - ble with hearts o - pen

*unis.*

40

wide to wor - ship and wel - come the Ba - by in -

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Away in a Manger'. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 32-35) features vocal lines in treble and bass clefs with lyrics 'peace that He brings.' and a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The second system (measures 36-39) features vocal lines with lyrics 'We come to a stable with hearts open' and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 40-43) features vocal lines with lyrics 'wide to worship and welcome the baby in -' and piano accompaniment. A large red watermark 'Preview Only! Legal use requires purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

44 45

side. The star shines up - on Him, the song - fills - the

48 *unis.*

air; we - kneel at the man - ger and of - fer our

*unis.*

52 53

prayer

(FLUTE) *mf*

52 53

56 59 *p unis.*

Be with us,

*mf unis.*

Be near us, Lord—

56 59

60

Lord, and love us, we pray. Teach us to

Je - sus, and— love us, we pray, and— teach us to

60

64 67

fol - low and serve You each day. Fill us with

fol - low and — serve You each day. Please fill us with —

64 67

*mp*

68

kind - ness help us to grow. Guide and pro -

kind - ness and — help us to grow, and — guide and pro -

68



72 *mf* 75

tect us wher - ev - er we go. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

tect us wher - ev - er we go.

72 75

76

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia we sing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

*mf*

76

80

lu - ia for the joy \_\_\_\_\_ and the

*unis.*

This system contains the vocal and bass staves for measures 80 through 83. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "lu - ia for the joy \_\_\_\_\_ and the". The bass line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The word "unis." is written above the bass line in measure 81.

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 80 through 83. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The music is in a key signature of one flat. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

84

peace You bring. \_\_\_\_\_

*rit.*

This system contains the vocal and bass staves for measures 84 through 87. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "peace You bring. \_\_\_\_\_". The bass line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The word "rit." is written above the vocal line in measure 87.

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 84 through 87. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The music is in a key signature of one flat. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

84

*rit.*

*8vb*

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 84 through 87. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The music is in a key signature of one flat. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The word "rit." is written above the piano line in measure 87. The marking "8vb" is written below the piano line in measure 87.

# PRAYER AT THE MANGER

FLUTE

Incorporating *AWAY IN A MANGER*  
Music by DON BESIG (ASCAP)

Gently (♩ = ca. 84 - 88)

3 *mp*

8 9 7 17 *p*

20 25

28 *mf* 53

35 37 8 45 7

55 59 7 *mp*

67

74 75 3 *mf*

82 *rit.*

16168

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