

Christmas Pageant (Year A/Matthew)—Dreamers Arise!

By the Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia, St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco 2013

Scene 1: Introduction

Narrator: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,

Narrator: the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.

Narrator: While the breath of God swept over the face of the waters.

Narrator: Then God said,

Narrators: ‘Let there be light’;

Narrator: and there was light.

Narrator: *walking slowly to scroll* And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Narrator: *walking slowly to scroll* Time began: Days, Weeks, Months, Years

Time passed, and slowly, sometimes imperceptibly,

Slowly begin fading lights.

the Night grew longer, longer. And the Dark grew larger, larger.

And the points of light grew few and far between.

Narrator: *(walking slowly to end of solea)*

People huddled in shadows. Creatures cowered in corners. And creation fell into a deep, dreamless sleep.

Until the time came for God’s breath to sweep over those who slumbered, and to kindle the Light again.

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

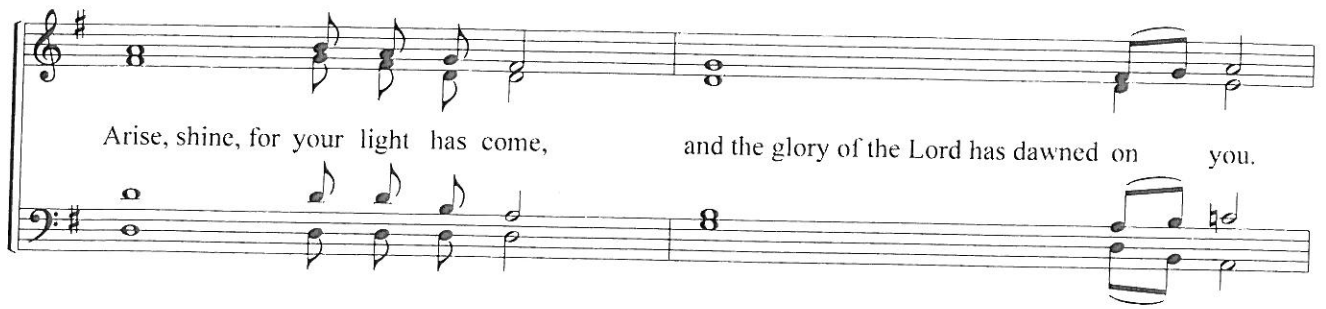
Scene 2: Arise, Shine

MFL #36 "Arise Shine"

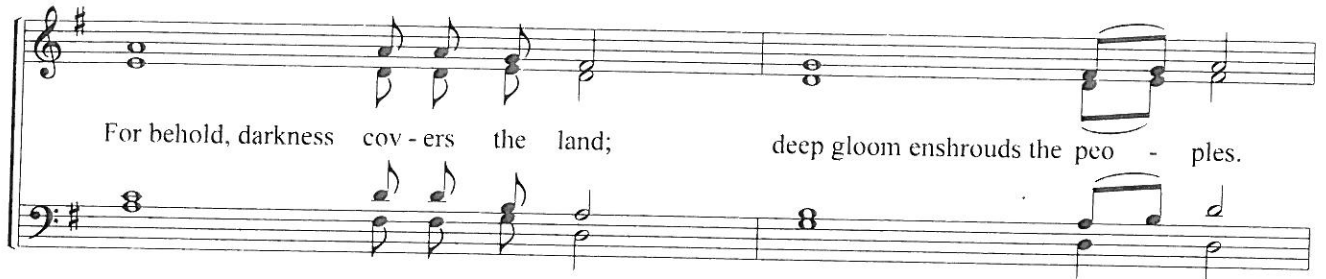
During the last lines of the song, the lights come up.

36 Arise, shine, for your light has come

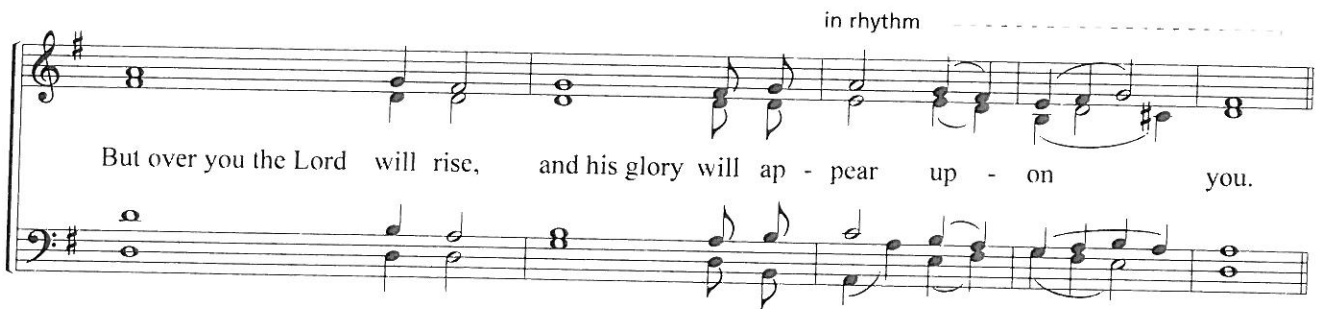
Arkhangelsky Chant



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned on you.

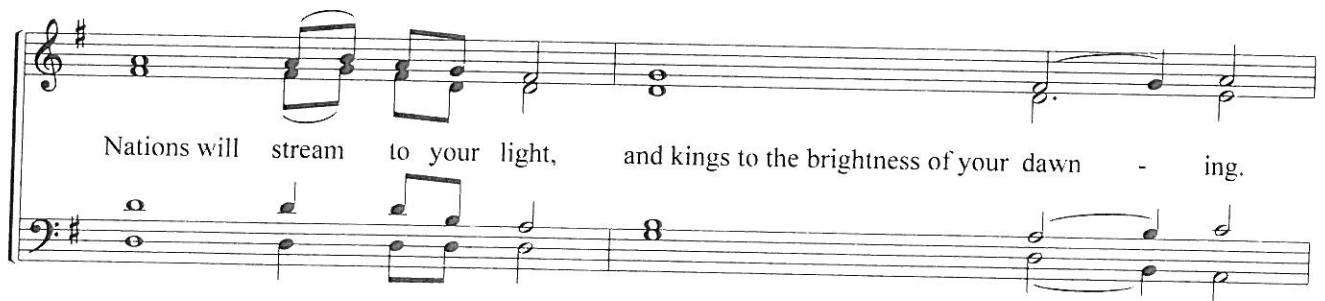


For behold, darkness cov - ers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peo - ples.

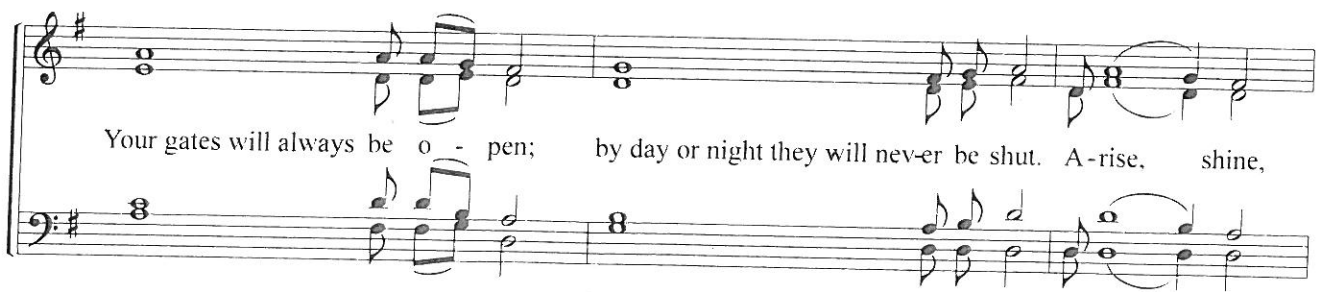


in rhythm

But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will ap - pear up - on you.

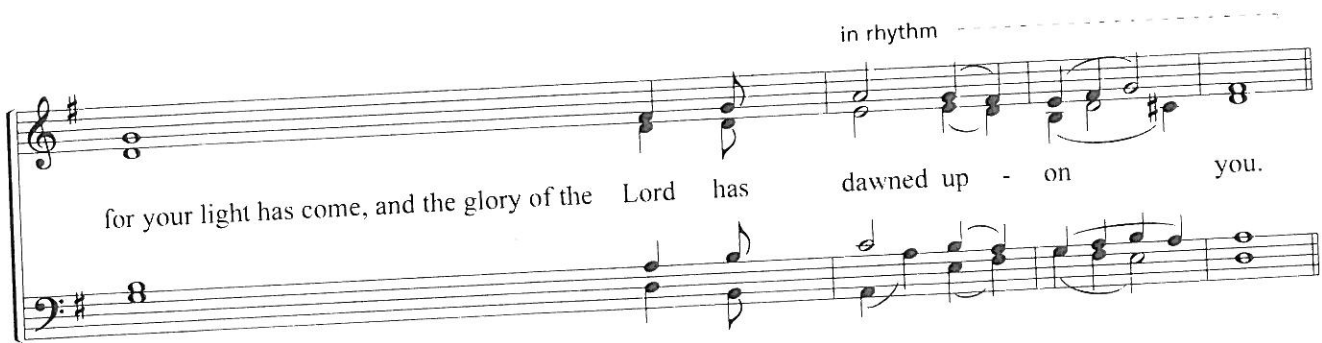


Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn - ing.

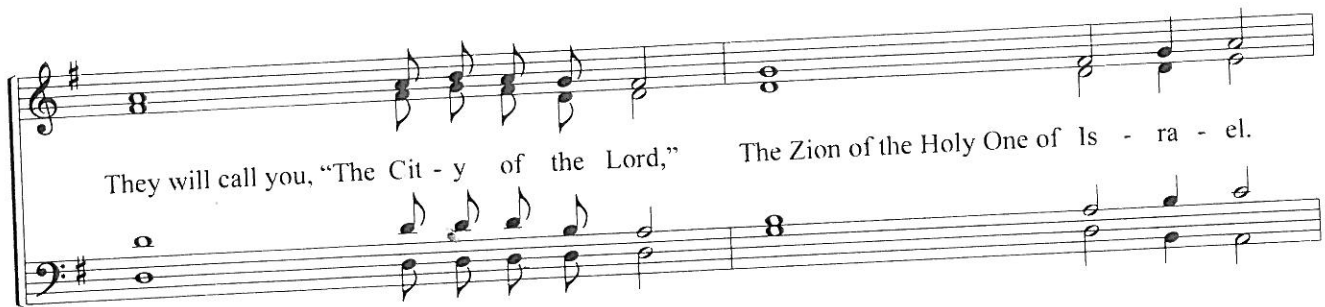


Your gates will always be o - pen; by day or night they will never be shut. A-rise, shine,

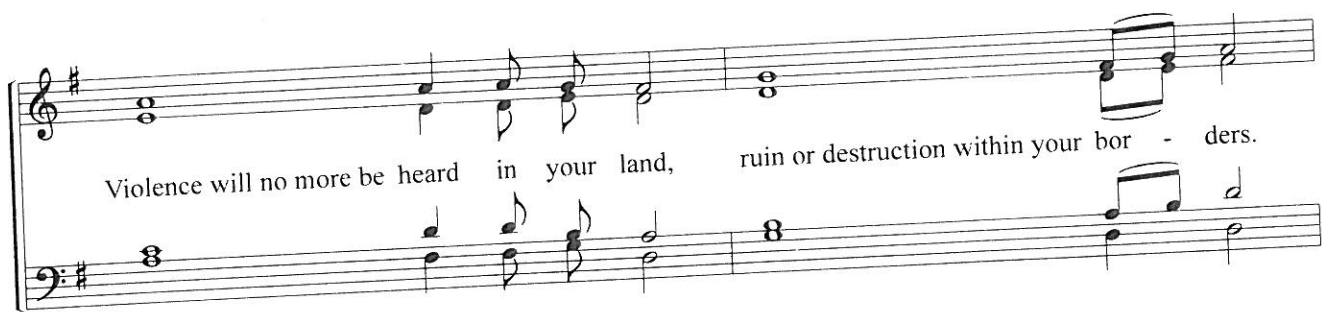
in rhythm



for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned up - on you.

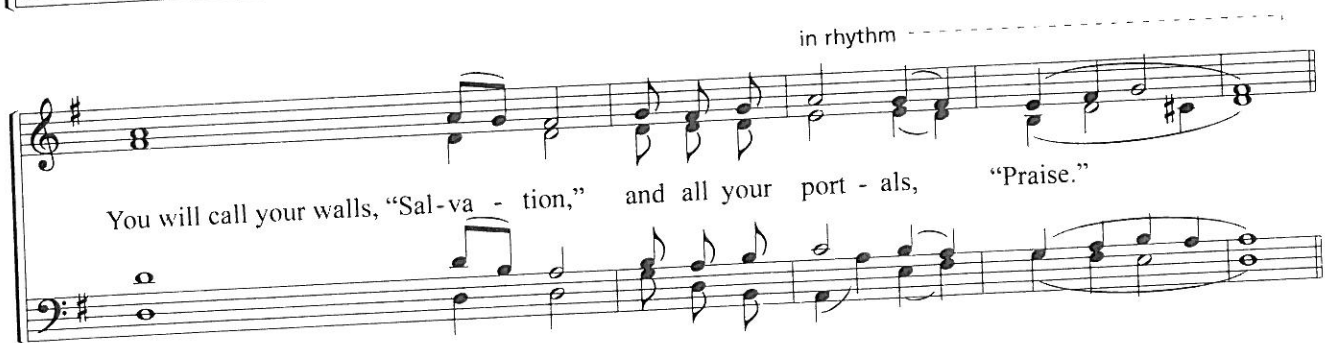


They will call you, "The Cit - y of the Lord," The Zion of the Holy One of Is - ra - el.

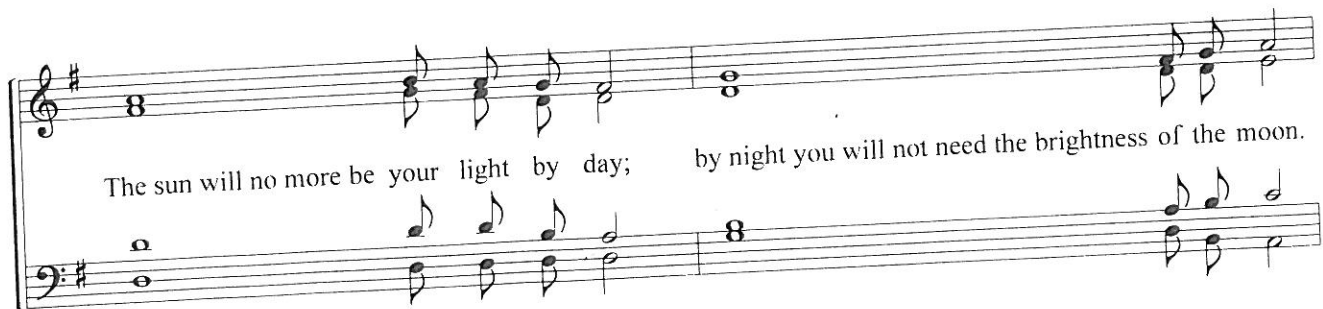


Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your bor - ders.

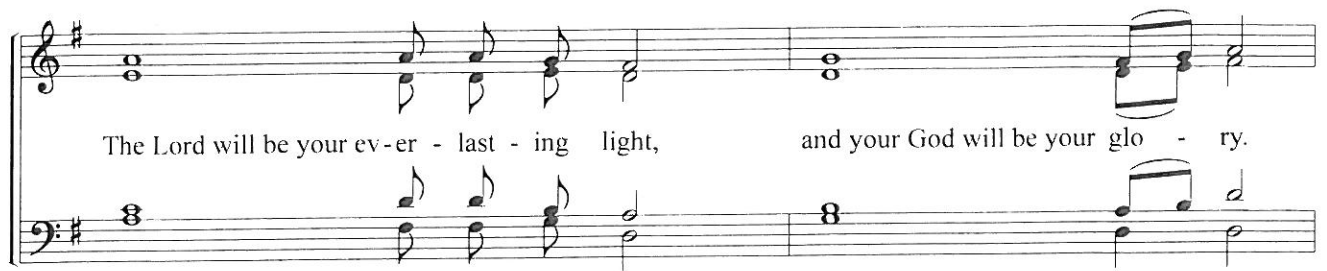
in rhythm



You will call your walls, "Sal - va - tion," and all your port - als, "Praise."

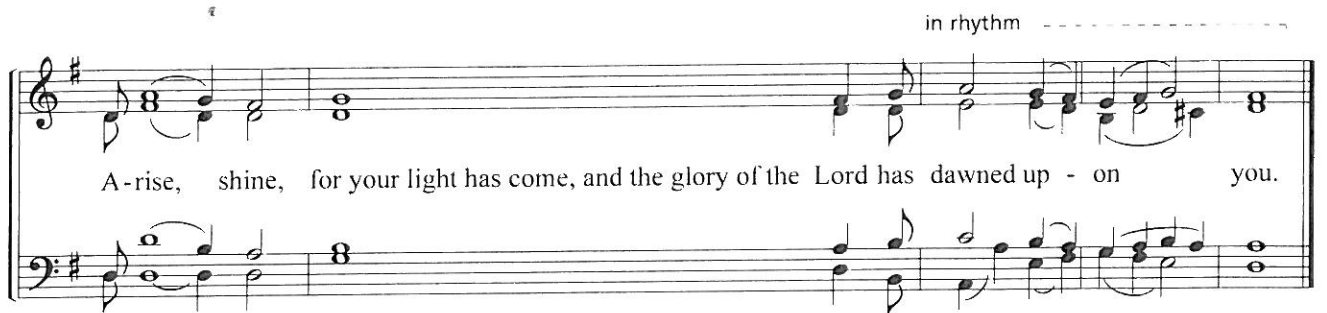


The sun will no more be your light by day; by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.



The Lord will be your ev - er - last - ing light, and your God will be your glo - ry.

in rhythm -----



A-rise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned up - on you.

Music: Alexander Arkhangel'sky (1846-1924), adapt. Scott R. King (b. 1955). Words: Third Song of Isaiah. Copying for local use is permitted and encouraged.

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____



Glo - ry to you Lord Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you Lord Christ.

Scene 3: Herod's Dream

In Herod's palace. Herod is dozing on his "throne" (under the Chinese Scroll)

Narrator: One warm evening, long ago, in a luxurious palace in the city of Jerusalem, a dark and devious King called Herod was dozing after a late-afternoon feast.

Herod (*murmuring happily in his sleep*): Power...absolute power...king of the world...Herod...Master of the Universe...

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

Gabriel & Angels sweep past Herod, chanting (MBH 61, Part II), then depart

As the Angels depart, Herod wakes with a start, and lets out a blood curdling scream.

Herod: *Noooo! Nooo! Nooooooooooooooooooooo!*

Guard & 3 Advisors rush from the 4 corners to surround his throne.

Advisor 1: King Herod, what's wrong?

Advisor 2: Are you all right?

Advisor 3: Did you have a bad dream?

Herod: A dream? A dream? Yes, I have a dream! A temple, a palace, a city of gold.

Advisor 1: Your highness, remember the Good Book says, "The senseless have vain and false hopes, and dreams give wings to fools."

Herod (*feigning momentary curiosity*): Oh really? (*Nonchalantly, to the guard*) Kill him.

Gong sounds. Guard quickly hauls Advisor 1 off to chapel for execution. Head rolls across stage.

Herod: A dream, a dream, yes I have a dream. Over this city and region I'm head...if anyone seems like a threat (my wife, my son, a random Jewish peasant baby...) he's dead.

Advisor 2: King Herod, remember the Good Books says, "Dreams come with many cares, and a fool's voice with many words."

Herod: What did you say? Oh right. Kill him.

Gong sounds. Guard quickly hauls Advisor 1 off to chapel for execution. Head rolls across stage.

Herod: A dream, a dream, yes I have a dream. Like a God I shall be worshipped, obeyed by every person under heaven.

Advisor 3: Sir, I hate to remind you that the Good Book says, “Dreams are unreal, and like a woman in labour—no offense to your late wife-- the mind has fantasies.”

Herod: No offense to my who? Ah, yes. Kill him.

Gong sounds. Guard quickly hauls Advisor 1 off to chapel for execution. Head rolls across stage.

Herod: Really. *(Looking around)* If no one else has any wisdom from the “Good Book” to add, I think I’ll call it a day. A murderous tyrant does need his sleep, you know.

Herod exits.

Insert Song: #28 The Angel Gabriel

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, — his
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, — all
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, — "To
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born — in

1 wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes — as flame; — "All
 2 gen - er - a - tions laud, and hon - - or thee, — thy
 3 me be as it pleas - eth God," — she said, — "my
 4 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, — and

1 hail, "said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - - ry, — most
 2 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, — most
 3 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name." — Most
 4 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say — "Most

high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - - - - ri - a! —

Scene 4: Mary's Dream

Mary is at the waist of the church.

Narrator: Meanwhile, in the village of Nazareth, a young woman had just finished preparing the evening meal for her aging parents. Bone-tired from a hard day's work, she closed her eyes for just a moment's rest, and fell asleep.

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

Gabriel and angels sweep past Mary, past front doors to Chinese Scroll, and up center aisle to face Mary chanting (MBH 61, Part I),

Gabriel Arise!

Lead Angels Arise!

All Angels Arise!

Gabriel Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Mary Who are you?

Gabriel I am Gabriel, the Angel.
And you are Mary, the Mother of God's Son.
Look! The maiden is with child, and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, "God is with us".

Lead Angels God is with us

All Angels God is with us

Mary This is impossible. YOU are impossible. I must be dreaming!

Gabriel Nothing is impossible to God.
Can you not feel it?
God's dream is already growing inside you.

Mary How can this be?

Gabriel God's Spirit is covering you.
 God's Light is filling you.
 God's Word is growing in you.

Mary I am God's servant.
 Let it be with me according to your word.
 Let God's dream be planted in me.

Exit Gabriel and Angels. Mary remains at center. Joseph enters.

Insert Song: #23 Lo How a Rose

1 Lo! How a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,

1 Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As seers of old have sung.
 2 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 3 Dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - ery - where;

1 It came, a blos - som bright, A - mid the
 2 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 3 True man, yet ve - ry God, From sin and

1 cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 2 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 3 death now save us, And share our ev - ery load.

Scene 5: Joseph & Mary

Mary hears Joseph approach and stands, facing him.

Narrator: Young Mary was engaged to be married to a good and upright man, a carpenter in Nazareth called Joseph. Now it happened that Joseph was passing by, and Mary, seeing him as he passed, ran out to greet him.

Mary Joseph, my love...it's a dream come true!

Joseph I'm happy to see you, too, dear one.

Mary It's too amazing to tell, it's too unbelievable...

Joseph *(takes Mary's hand)* Mary, what are you talking about? I know you're glad to see me, but...

Mary God has blessed me as he blessed Sarah and Hannah.

Joseph *(warily)* Mary, what do you mean?

Mary I am carrying a child.

Joseph looks around, confused. Mary takes Joseph's hand, and brings it to her belly.

Joseph *(slowly realizing what Mary means, and pulls his hand away, horrified)* Mary, this isn't a dream. It's a nightmare. How could this happen?

Mary I don't know. I only know what the angel told me...

Joseph The angel! Mary if someone has taken advantage of you have to tell me!

Mary No one has taken advantage of me. And I have not betrayed you.

Joseph I can't believe this. I will not shame you, but we cannot be married...

Mary Joseph, I can't explain it. I know it doesn't make sense but I am telling you the truth.

Joseph You give me no choice. I cannot marry you.

Mary Joseph, please.

Joseph I cannot...

Joseph turns and leaves, slamming the kitchen door behind him. Mary kneels down and prays...

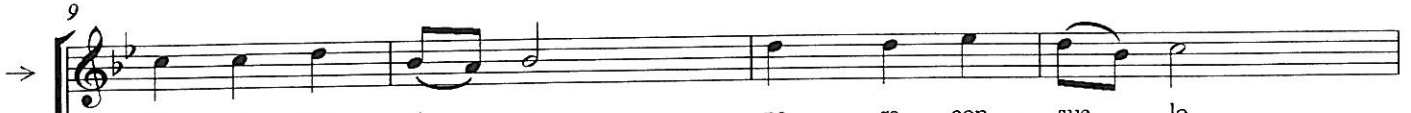
Mary God's Spirit is covering me.
 God's Light is filling me.
 God's Word is growing in me.
 God's will be done. Please.

Mary exits to the kitchen.

Insert Song: #11 Ya Viene el alba



1 Ya vie-ne el al - ba rom-pien-do el dí - a; di - ga - mos to - dos: ¡A - ve Ma - ri - a!
 3 Na - ció Ma - ri - a con e - fi - ca - cia; ¡A - ve Ma - ri - a, lle - na de gra - cia!
 5 El in - - - - - fier - no tres ve - ces tiem - bla al de - cir pron - to ¡A - ve Ma - ri - a!



2 Na - ció Ma - ri - a pa - ra con - sue - lo
 4 La - sier - pe fie - ra llor - a sus pe - nas;
 6 To - dos can - te - mos en al - to la - voz:



2 Na - ció Ma - ri - a pa - ra con - sue - - - - - lo
 4 La - sier - pe fie - ra llor - a sus pe - - - - - nas;
 6 To - dos can - te - mos en al - to la voz: _____



2 Na - ció Ma - ri - a pa - - - - - ra con - sue - lo de pe - ca -
 4 La - sier - pe fie - ra llor - - - - - a sus pe - nas; Ma - ria le
 6 To - dos can - te - mos en - - - - - al - to la voz: ¡A - ve Ma -



2 Na - ció Ma - ri - - - - - a pa - ra con - sue - lo
 4 La - sier - pe fie - - - - - ra llor - a sus pe - nas;
 6 To - dos can - te - - - - - mos en al - to la - voz:



de pe - ca - do - res, y luz del cie - lo.
 Ma - ria le po - ne fuer - tes ca - de - nas.
 ¡A - ve Ma - ri - a, Ma - dre de Dios! _____



de pe - ca - do - - - - - res, y luz del cie - lo.
 Ma - ria le po - - - - - ne fuer - tes ca - de - nas.
 ¡A - ve Ma - ri - - - - - a, Ma - dre de Dios! _____



do - - - - - res, y luz del cie - lo.
 po - - - - - ne fuer - tes ca - de - nas.
 ri - - - - - a, Ma - dre de Dios! _____



de pe - ca - do - res, y luz del cie - lo.
 Ma - ria le po - ne fuer - tes ca - de - nas.
 ¡A - ve Ma - ri - a, Ma - dre de Dios! _____

Scene 6

Joseph's Dream

Joseph enters through nursery door with a loud sign, goes to the presider's chair, and falls asleep.

Narrator: Joseph, overcome with grief and shock and anger, returned to his own home. He worked, and wept, and prayed far into the night until, at last, he fell into a troubled sleep.

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

Angels encircle Joseph, chanting (MBH 61, Part II),

Gabriel Arise!

Lead Angels Arise!

All Angels Arise!

Gabriel Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid!
Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
The child she bears is from the Holy Spirit.
She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.
For he will save his people from their sins.

Joseph The Holy Spirit? There is nothing holy about an unwed mother. Or a fatherless son.

Lead Angel (s) Mary's son is God's Son.
And he will be the savior of all people.
Save Mary, Joseph,
and her Son will save the world.

Gabriel Joseph, arise!
Go find your bride.
God is with you.
Fear not.

Lead Angels Fear not.

All Angels Fear not.

Narrator When Joseph awoke, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do; he took Mary as his wife; into his home, and into his heart.

Angels depart. Joseph meets Mary at the waist of the church.

***Insert Song: #34 Of the Father's Love
Begotten***

34 Of the Father's love begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



1 gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the
 2 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 3 prais - es sing: powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
 4 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, and un -



1 source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have
 2 Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - -
 3 tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be si - - -
 4 wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - - -



1 been, and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 2 er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 3 lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er more!
 4 ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?), tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.
 Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

Scene 7: Bethlehem

Narrator: Now it happened at this time that the world's Great King, the Caesar Augustus, issued a decree that every person in his Kingdom should be registered and counted and taxed. So each person went back, to his family's hometown, to be counted. Joseph, also set out from Nazareth to his hometown of Bethlehem. And Mary, now heavy with child, went with him.

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

Innkeeper 1: Get up! Somebody's knocking at the door.

Innkeeper 2: Why do I always have to do everything?

Innkeeper 3: Oh enough, you two. I'll get up. (*Going to the door.*) Hello?

Joseph: Please ma'am, we need a room. We've traveled from Nazareth, and my wife is expecting, and we just need a place to stay.

Innkeeper 3: Your wife is...(*seeing Mary*) oh honey! You really *are* expecting! We haven't got an inch of space left in the house, but you need to get settled in somewhere—and quickly, I'd say, from the looks of you. (*To Joseph*) Take her round back to the stable. She'll be safe, and reasonably warm. I'll be right out with some towels and hot water.

Mary: (*breathlessly*) Thank you.

Innkeeper 3: Of course. Now go.

Narrator: That same night Mary gave birth to a son, and she named him Jesus.

CLAVES: X_XX X_XX

During "Somebody's Knocking". Mary & Joseph go out the nursery door, then circle back in, collect the baby Jesus and go to the presider's chair.

Scene 8: Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Mash up of "Somebody's Knocking at your door" w/ "Arise Shine"?

Chorus:

Somebody's Knocking at your door
Somebody's Knocking at your door
O Sleeper, why don't you answer?
Somebody's Knocking at your door

Verses:

1- Shepherds heard it...

shepherds and sheep make their way through the church to the manger

2-Angels heard it...

Gabriel and Angels move through the church and make their way to the manger

3-Wise Ones heard it

Star dances in, singing "Arise Shine"

4-(Add Arise Shine Descant) Heavens Foretold it

Magi enter and follow star through the church towards Herod's Palace

Scene 9 **In Herod's Palace**

Herod is dozing on his throne, under the Presider's scroll. Magi meet the Advisors outside the palace door.

Narrator: After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem, wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem, asking

All Magi Where is the infant king of the Jews?

Magi 1 We saw his star as it arose, and have come to honor him.

Adviser 1 Get up, King Herod.

Adviser 2 Your Majesty, you have guests.

Adviser 3 An official delegation has arrived from the East to pay homage and bring gifts.

Herod *(slowly awakening)* Homage and gifts? I LOVE homage and gifts!! Almost as much as I love a good nap. Show them in.

Magi 1 Your Majesty, we come from the East, where we have spent our lives studying the heavens.

Magi 2 Not long ago a new star appeared

Magi 3 A new light filled the heavens

Magi 1 We are following that light

Magi 2 to the King of the Jews.

Herod *(beaming with satisfaction)* That's me! You came to the right place. How gratifying that my fame has reached your distant lands and even the stars in the sky praise my name.

Magi 1 Your highness,

Magi 2 With all due respect

Magi 3 it is our understanding that this star heralds the birth of a *newborn* King.

Herod *(muttering under his breath facing the audience)* What treachery is this?! Who else dares call himself king in my realm? *(Then turning towards the Three Kings.)* The newborn King of the Jews, you say. Have you any details? Where might this king be found?

Magi 1 Sir, this is your realm

Magi 2 We assumed you could tell *us*

Magi 3 That's why we're here

Herod Of course. Advisors?

All Advisors (*arguing among themselves*) You tell him. No, *you* tell him. No *you* tell him.

Advisor 3 O fine. I'll do it. Bethlehem, your highness. The Good Book says, "From you O Bethlehem, will come a leader who will shepherd my people, Israel."

Herod Does it? (*puzzled and dismayed but trying to conceal his alarm*): Well, If that is so, I too should like to pay him a visit. Go to Bethlehem, and come back here on your way home to tell me where this mighty young king might be found.

Scene 10

We three Kings

Narrator: Having listened to what the King had to say, the Magi set out. And suddenly, the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. And the sight of the star filled them with delight.

Insert Song: # 40 We Three Kings

(Congregation stays seated, joins in on

REFRAIN ONLY)

During "We 3 Kings", the Magi & Star sing and dance as they travel to Bethlehem and present their gifts to the Baby Jesus.



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.
 Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

41 Our Father

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name. Your king - dom come, your will be

done, on earth and in hea - ven. Give us to - day the bread of life and for -

give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Scene 11- Finale

Narrator : So the innkeeper and her family;

Narrator : the shepherds and the sheep;

Narrator: the magi and their attendants;

Narrator : each in turn rose up and went to pay homage to the Baby who was called Jesus, the Son of God, the newborn King, the Light of the World.

Narrator : Then each returned home, glowing with the same Light they had seen in the Baby.

Narrator: The shepherds and sheep returned to their fields.

Narrator: The Magi returned to their own country (but warned in a dream by the Angel not to return to king Herod, they went home by a different way.)

Narrator: But that was not the end of the story. For after the last visitor had departed, and the Holy Family was getting some much needed rest, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying,

Gabriel Arise! Take the child and his mother and go!

Narrator : And the Holy Family got up, and left that very night for the land of Egypt.

Narrator: And from that long ago night, until this very night, the Light of the World has been on the move, traveling over the whole earth.

Narrator : Glowing in every corner of creation and seeking a home in every human heart. The light summons dreamers everywhere to wake up! And Arise!

Procession w/ Baby as Congregation stands & sings "Arise Shine" (from Music by Heart)... "Max leads Hillside" Part 1; Sarah leads "Streetside" Part 2....

61 Arise, shine

Ruth Cunningham

This song is particularly appropriate Christmas and Epiphany

FORM: Layered

LEVEL: Easy

LEARN TOGETHER:

- Divide the congregation into two groups.
- Teach Part 1 to the first group.

A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A

The musical notation for Part 1 consists of two staves in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with a repeat sign at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

- Teach Part 2 to the second group.

A - rise, shine for your light has come, and the
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A

The musical notation for Part 2 is identical to Part 1, consisting of two staves in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with a repeat sign at the beginning. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

SING TOGETHER:

- Bring in each group one by one.

A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the
A - rise, shine for your light has come, and the
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system contains the first line of lyrics. The second system contains the second line of lyrics. The third and fourth systems contain the third line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the", "A - rise, shine for your light has come, and the", "glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A", and "glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A". The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and repeat signs.

Words: Isaiah 60:1

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