"Preserving tradition with imagination"

November 2017

Table of contents:

Organ Petting Zoo
by Jessica Nelson

So You Want to Start a Children's Choir…
by Westley Hodges

Music offerings by Kenneth Grinnell

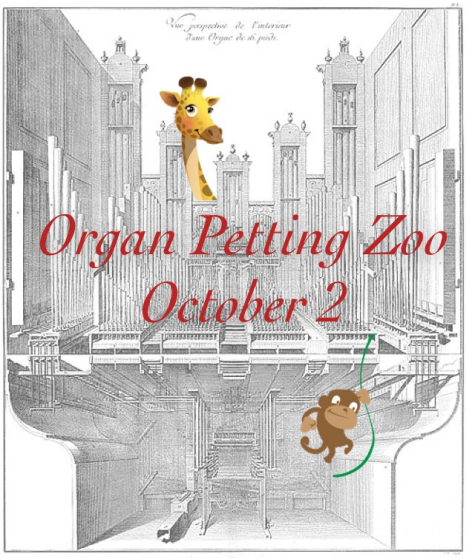
Kenneth Grinnell is the organist of Grace Episcopal Church in Manchester, N. H. He can be reached at: fourgrinns@comcast.net. He has graciously given us permission to use his music, if you use a piece send him an email and let him know! We are sure he would love to hear from you.

Organ Petting Zoo

by Jessica Nelson

After lots of Sunday services, I can be found sticking around the organ, helping small, eager hands pick out "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Even though it adds to the post-liturgical din in the nave, every time I catch a child (or an adult) eyeing the instrument, I invite them in for a closer look, and to play if they'd like. (Yes, it can be terrifying to have small children play instruments that can cost millions of dollars, but with proper supervision and your instrument's technician on speed dial, it's a worthwhile risk.)

Last St. Francis Day, I invited small children to stay after the service for an "Organ Petting Zoo," a (somewhat) organized introduction to the instrument. I spoke in the broadest terms about how the organ was made, let them handle wooden pipes from a dismantled instrument, and demonstrated the different voices by imitating animals. Sweet flutes became songbirds, wheezy reeds became ducks and geese. We had as many creatures, real or imagined, as I could manage - deep singing whales, dragons, purring cats, growling dogs, buzzing bees, and even a visit from the zimbelstern fairy. Everybody had a turn to play a few notes with the animal of their choice. It was loud and chaotic - and required some parent helpers for crowd control - but fun.



Absolutely nothing went according to plan, but nobody cried, there was no damage to life or property, and maybe - I hope - somebody learned something!

Jessica Nelson
Organist/Choirmaster
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, MS
jnelson@standrewscathedral.org

So You Want to Start a Children's Choir…

by Westley Hodges

One of my greatest joys in my vocation is working with children. Children will do anything you ask them and will rise to whatever challenges you put in front of them. But, if you are serving a church that currently doesn't have a children's choir or a musical offering for children, it can be intimidating and sometimes overwhelming deciding which direction to go when starting a new children's music ministry. I hope that whatever route you choose that you are confident with your decision and you have done all the behind the scene work to make it a very successful ministry. In my opinion, one of the biggest mistakes we can do is just start a group. Before starting a group, I think you should spend hours planning and developing what will be the group's purpose and what commitment is needed from the children and parent(s)/guardian(s).

There are tons of ways to approach music for children in church. A lot of my colleagues use the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) as a children's choir in their parish. I think this is the most intense approach and requires the most commitment. With RSCM, children explore church music and liturgy and become active participants in worship. RSCM also works on leadership, and there are levels at which the children can grow and become leaders within the choir. Starting an RSCM choir can be intimidating, but for the right parish, this could be a great assist. More information about RSCM can be found on their website at www.rscm.com.

There are other approaches. My favorite way to utilize children as a choir is in smaller rehearsal commitments. Children these days are very busy, and weekly rehearsals become very difficult for them to attend every week. So, let's say you want a children's choir on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. First, plan your music that you want to use that Sunday, and if possible, make a recording of the music where the children can practice at home (please obtain permissions to make a recording of copyrighted music, this is usually as easy as contacting the publisher). Second, set your rehearsal time. Three or four rehearsals should be enough to ensure the children have enough time to learn the material and feel comfortable to perform in it the worship service. Third, communicate clearly with all the parent(s)/guardian(s) at least four weeks before the first rehearsal where they have time to plan their schedules and commit to the block of time needed to fulfill this obligation. If you do these sessions two to four times a year, I think you will find great success with attendance and participation.

My third suggestion would be to check around in your community and see if there is currently a community children's choir. If not, maybe your parish could sponsor a community children's choir. I have done this and have been very successful with it, but this is different than a church children's choir. We sing all types of music, and I emphasize attention to community. Children of all kind of backgrounds participate, and I try my hardest to do music that speaks to them all. Starting the Peoria Children's Choir was a great joy of mine, and the group has proven to be a vital resource for the parish and the community. I recently had the group sing at our All Saints' Sunday Service, and it was a huge success. We also sing two concerts a year.

Overall, I think we all can agree that children are vital to our story and our future, and they must be included. I challenge you to ask yourself how are you involving children in your programs and evaluate if you are doing enough or if you should give more attention to children's music ministry.

I am only one person, and this article is based on my experiences. We would love to hear from you about your experiences with children's choirs and other children's musical ministries.

Peace,

Westley Hodges
Co-Editor
Church Music Forward
whodges@westleyhodges.com

Kennneth Grinnell

Water of Life

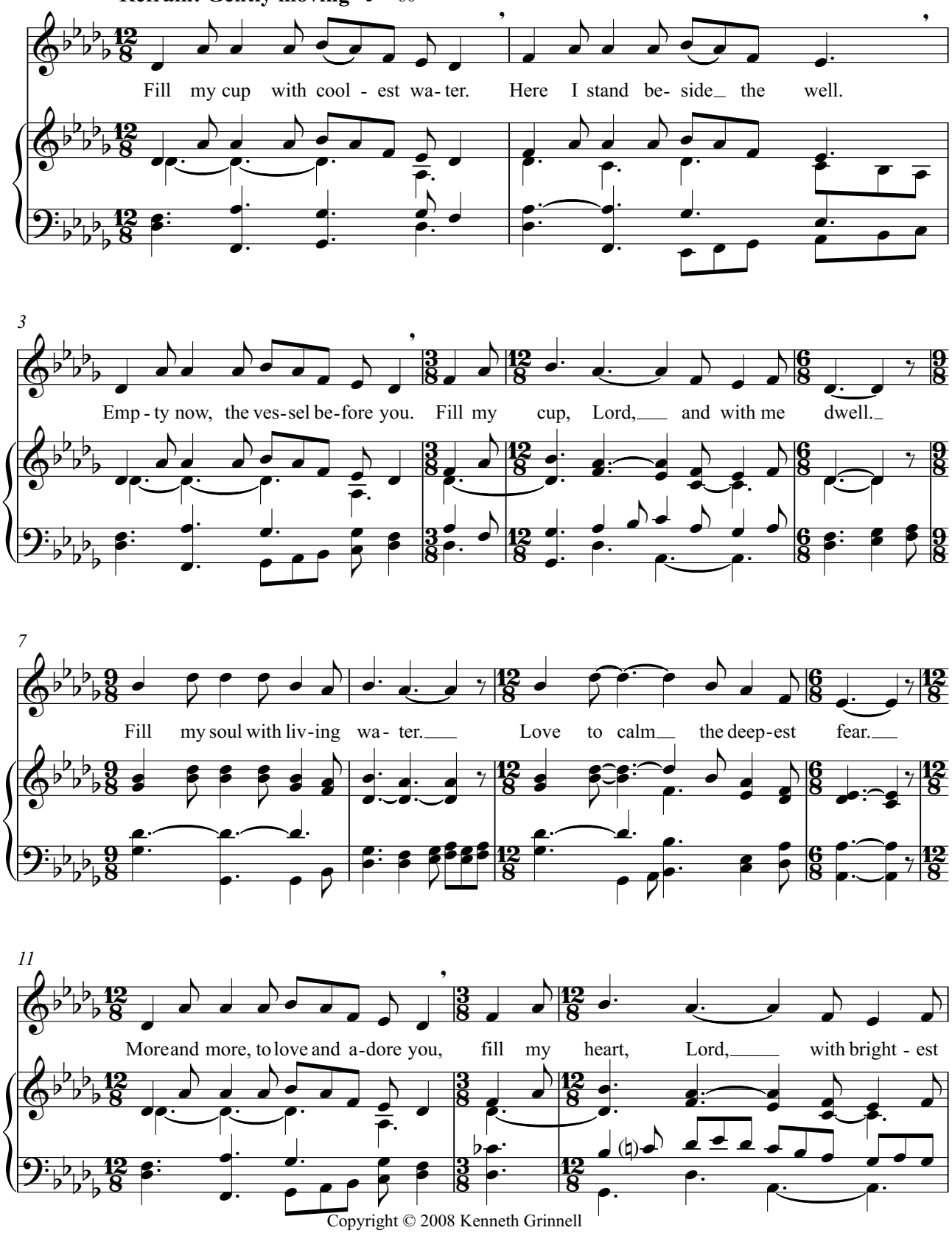
Water of Life

K. J. G.

Kennneth Grinnell

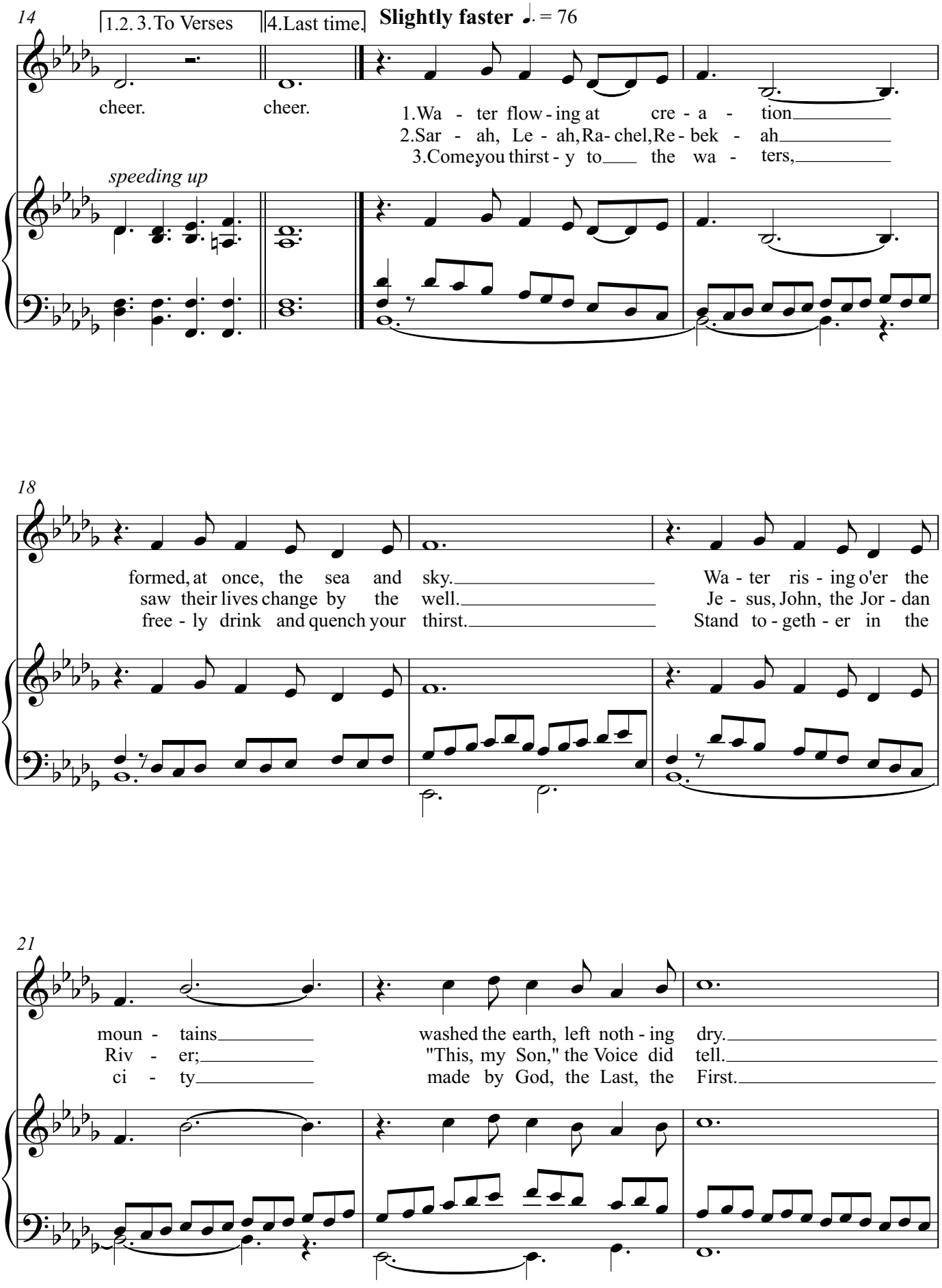
ATLANTIC AVE., Irregular

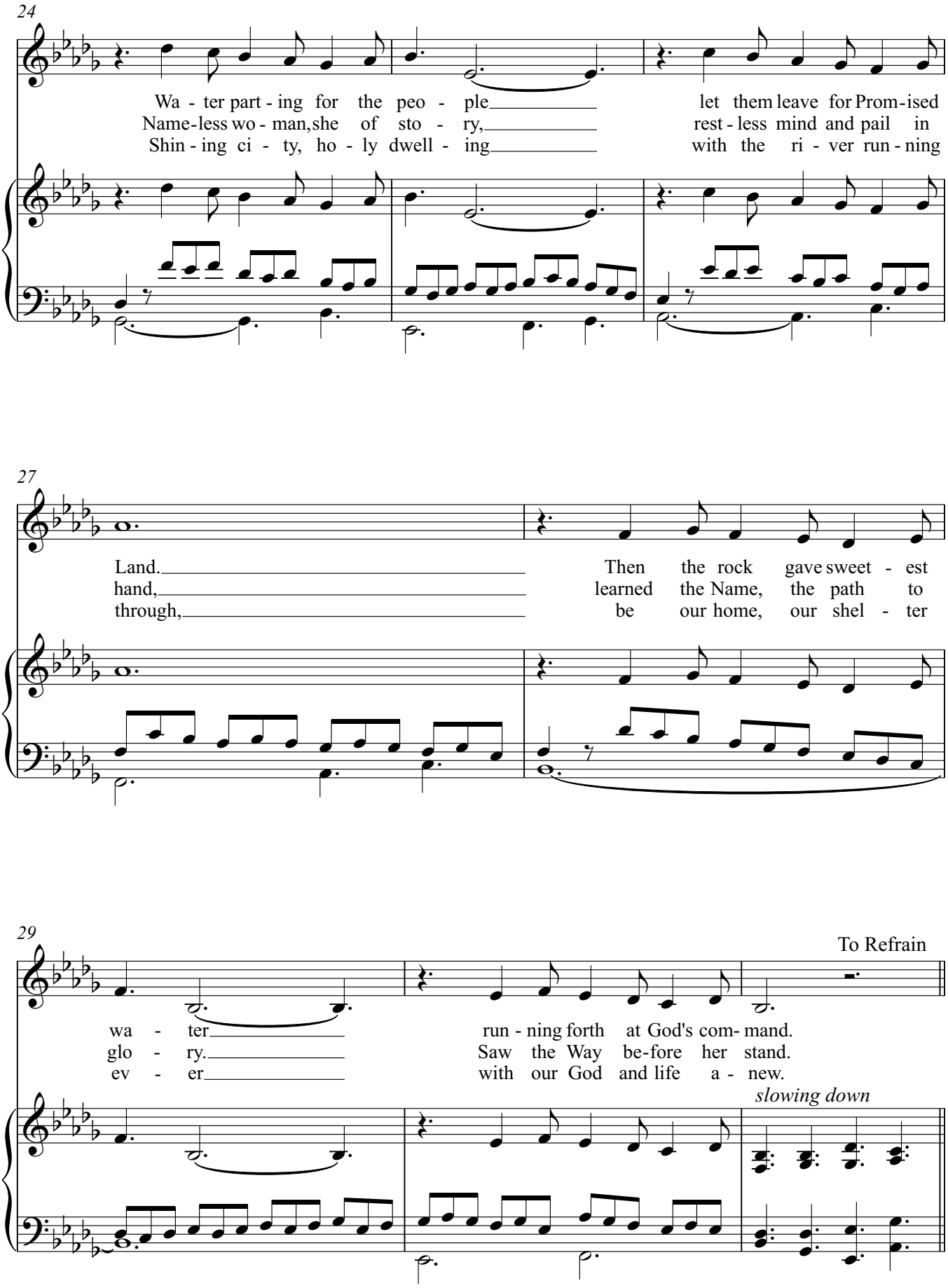
Refrain: Gently moving ♩. = 60



Copyright © 2008 Kenneth Grinnell

Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward


14
1.2. 3. To Verses
4.Last time.
Slightly faster ♩. = 76
cheer.
cheer.
1.Wa - ter flow - ing at cre - a - tion
2.Sar - ah, Le - ah, Ra - chel, Re - bek - ah
3.Come you thirst - y to the wa - ters,
speeding up
18
formed, at once, the sea and sky.
saw their lives change by the well.
free - ly drink and quench your thirst.
Wa - ter ris - ing o'er the
Je - sus, John, the Jor - dan
Stand to - geth - er in the
21
moun - tains
Riv - er;
ci - ty
washed the earth, left noth - ing dry.
"This, my Son," the Voice did tell.
made by God, the Last, the First.


24
Wa - ter part - ing for the peo - ple
Name-less wo - man, she of sto - ry,
Shin - ing ci - ty, ho - ly dwell - ing
let them leave for Prom-ised
rest - less mind and pail in
with the ri - ver run - ning
27
Land.
hand,
through,
Then the rock gave sweet - est
learned the Name, the path to
be our home, our shel - ter
29
To Refrain
wa - ter
glo - ry.
ev - er
run - ning forth at God's com- mand.
Saw the Way be-fore her stand.
with our God and life a - new.
slowing down

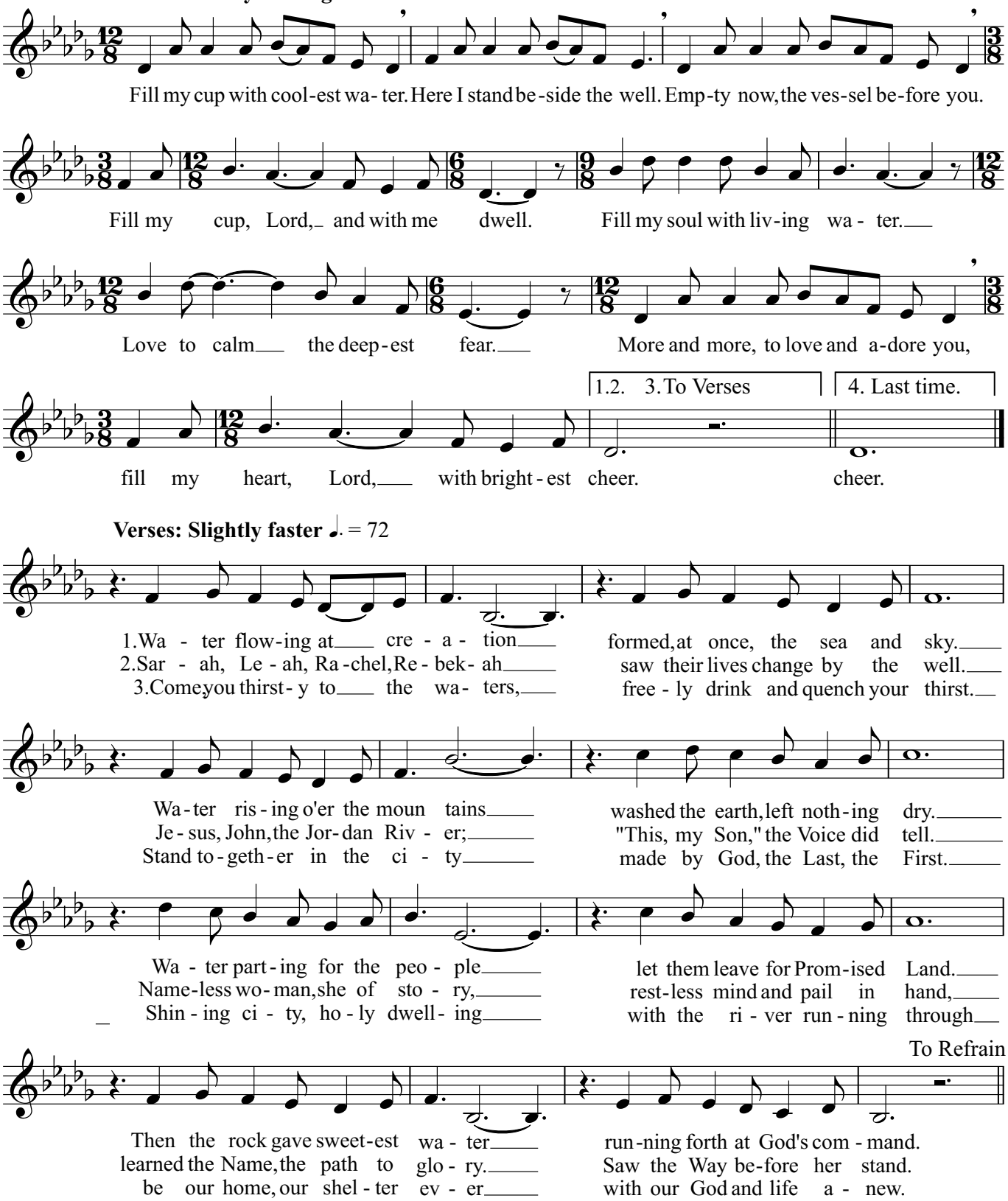
Water of Life

K. J. G.

Kennneth Grinnell

ATLANTIC AVE., Irregular

Refrain: Gently moving ♩. = 60



Verses: Slightly faster ♩. = 72

Copyright © 2008 Kenneth Grinnell

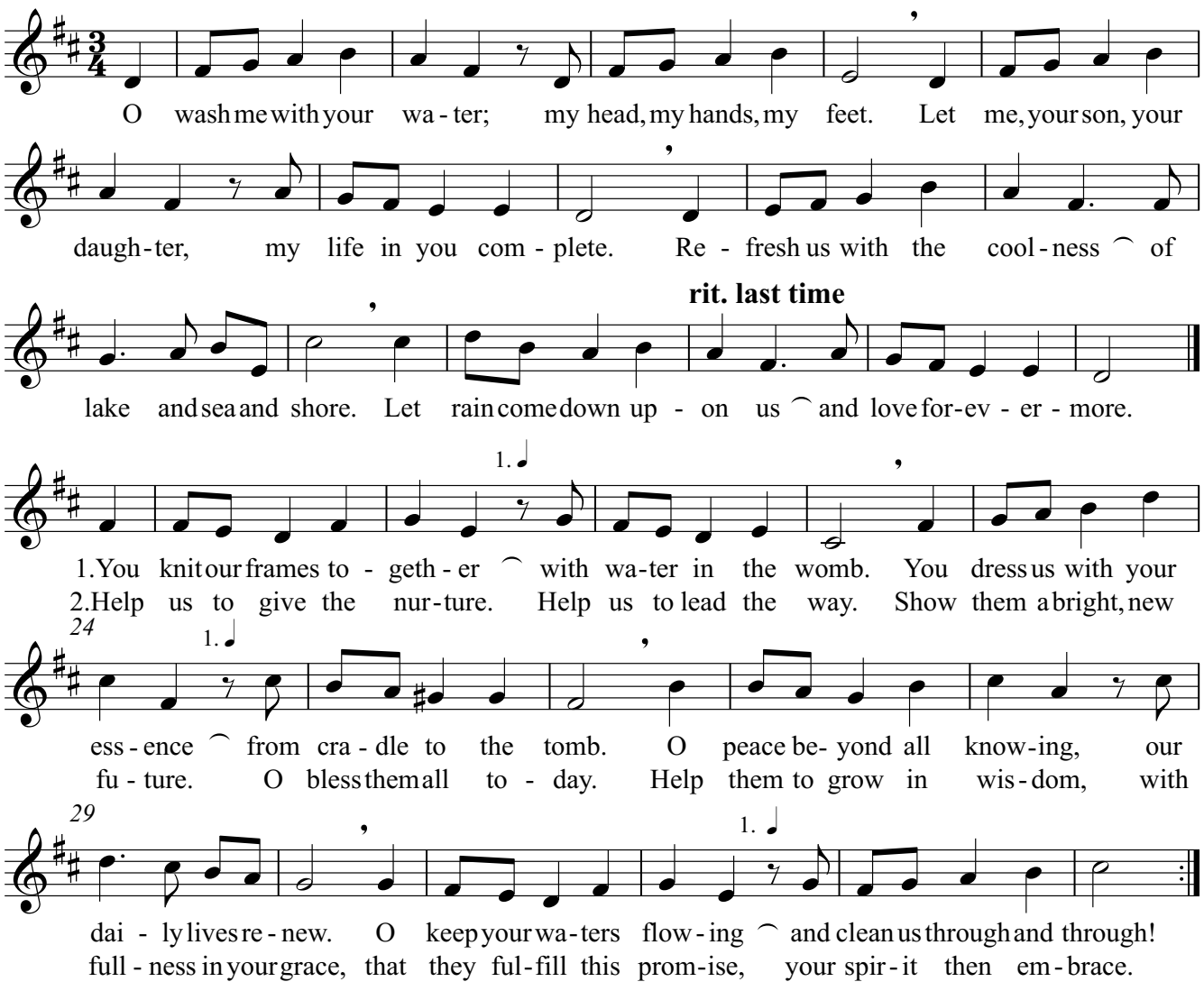
Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward

O Wash Me With Your Water

K. J. G.

for use at a ceremony of Baptism

WATER ST. 7.6.7.6.D
Kenneth Grinnell



©Copyright 2006, Kenneth Grinnell

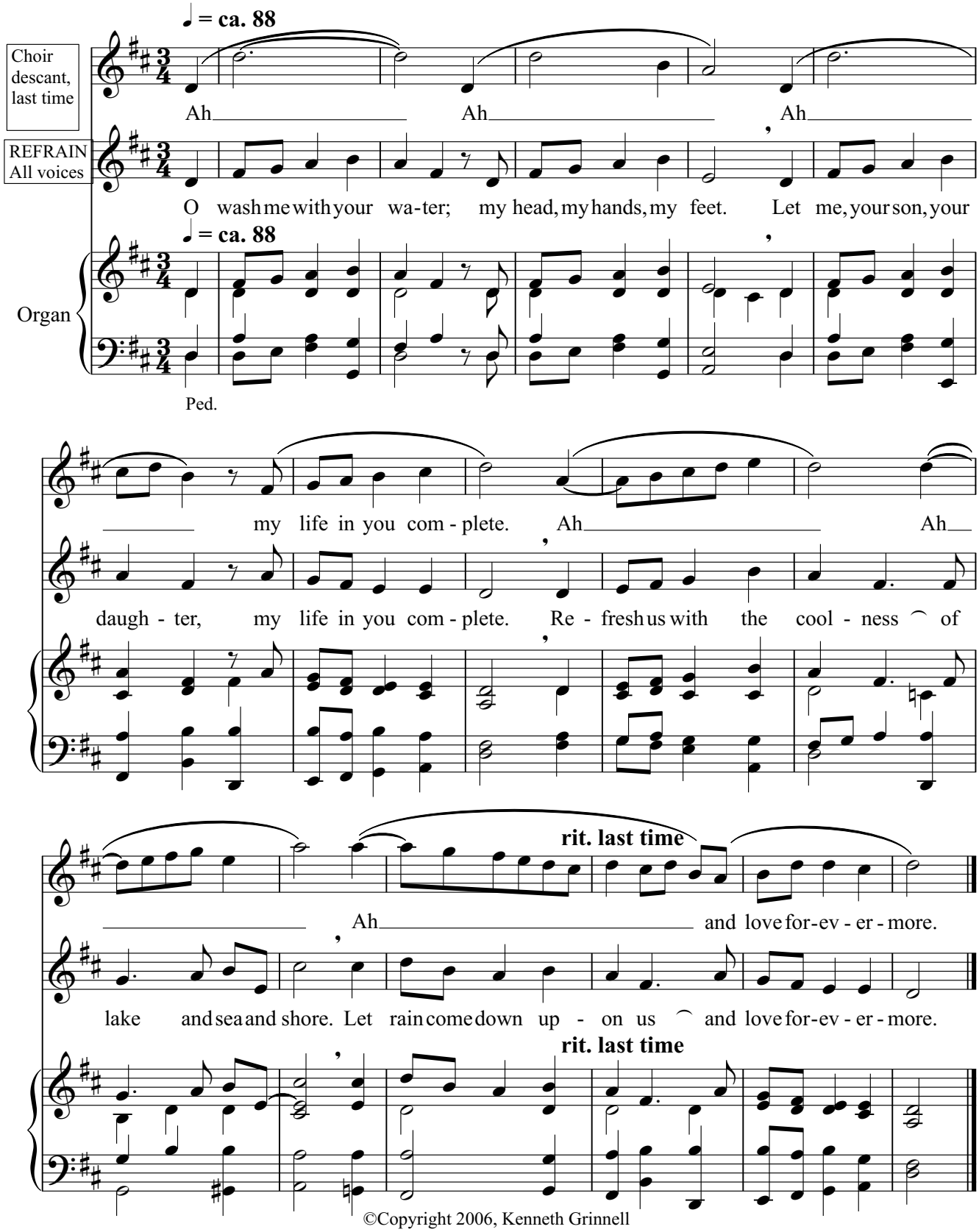
Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward

O Wash Me With Your Water

for use at a ceremony of Baptism

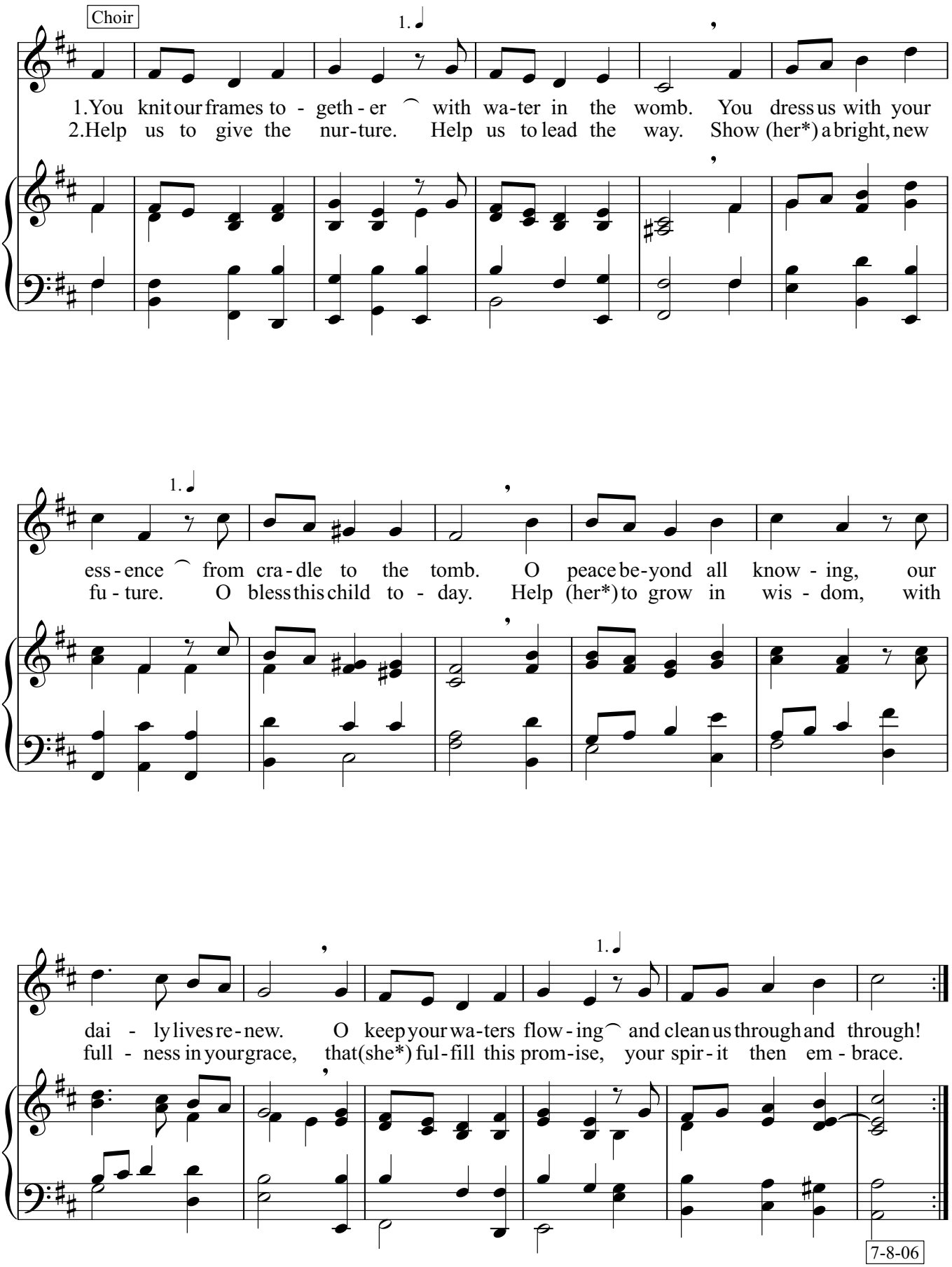
K. J. G.
Time ca. 2' 50"

WATER ST. 7.6.7.6.D
Kenneth Grinnell



©Copyright 2006, Kenneth Grinnell

Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward


Choir
1.
1.You knit our frames to - geth - er ⌒ with wa-ter in the womb. You dress us with your
2.Help us to give the nur-ture. Help us to lead the way. Show (her*) a bright, new
1.
ess - ence ⌒ from cra - dle to the tomb. O peace be-yond all know - ing, our
fu - ture. O bless this child to - day. Help (her*) to grow in wis - dom, with
1.
dai - ly lives re - new. O keep your wa-ters flow - ing⌒ and clean us through and through!
full - ness in your grace, that (she*) ful - fill this prom-ise, your spir - it then em - brace.
7-8-06

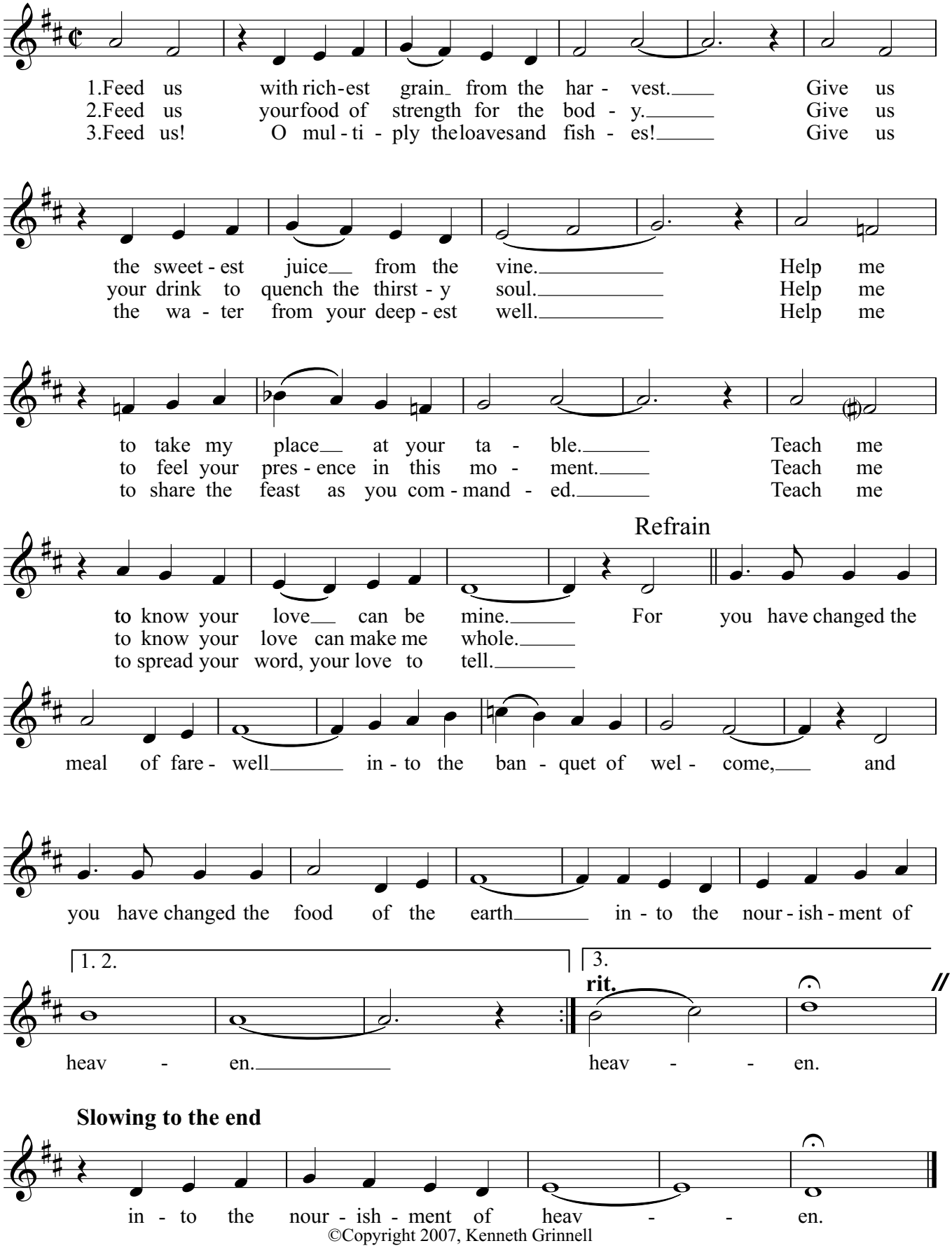
Feed Us

K. J. G.

Communion Preparation

CHURCH LANE, IRR.
Kenneth Grinnell

Andante ♩ = 72



©Copyright 2007, Kenneth Grinnell

Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward

Feed Us

K. J. G.

Communion Preparation

CHURCH LANE, IRR.
Kenneth Grinnell

Andante ♩ = 72

1.Feed us with rich - est grain from the har - vest. Give us
2.Feed us your food of strength for the bod - y. Give us
3.Feed us! O mul - ti - ply the loaves and fish - es! Give us

the sweet - est juice from the vine. Help me to take my
your drink to quench the thirst - y soul. Help me to feel your
the wa - ter from your deep - est well. Help me to share the

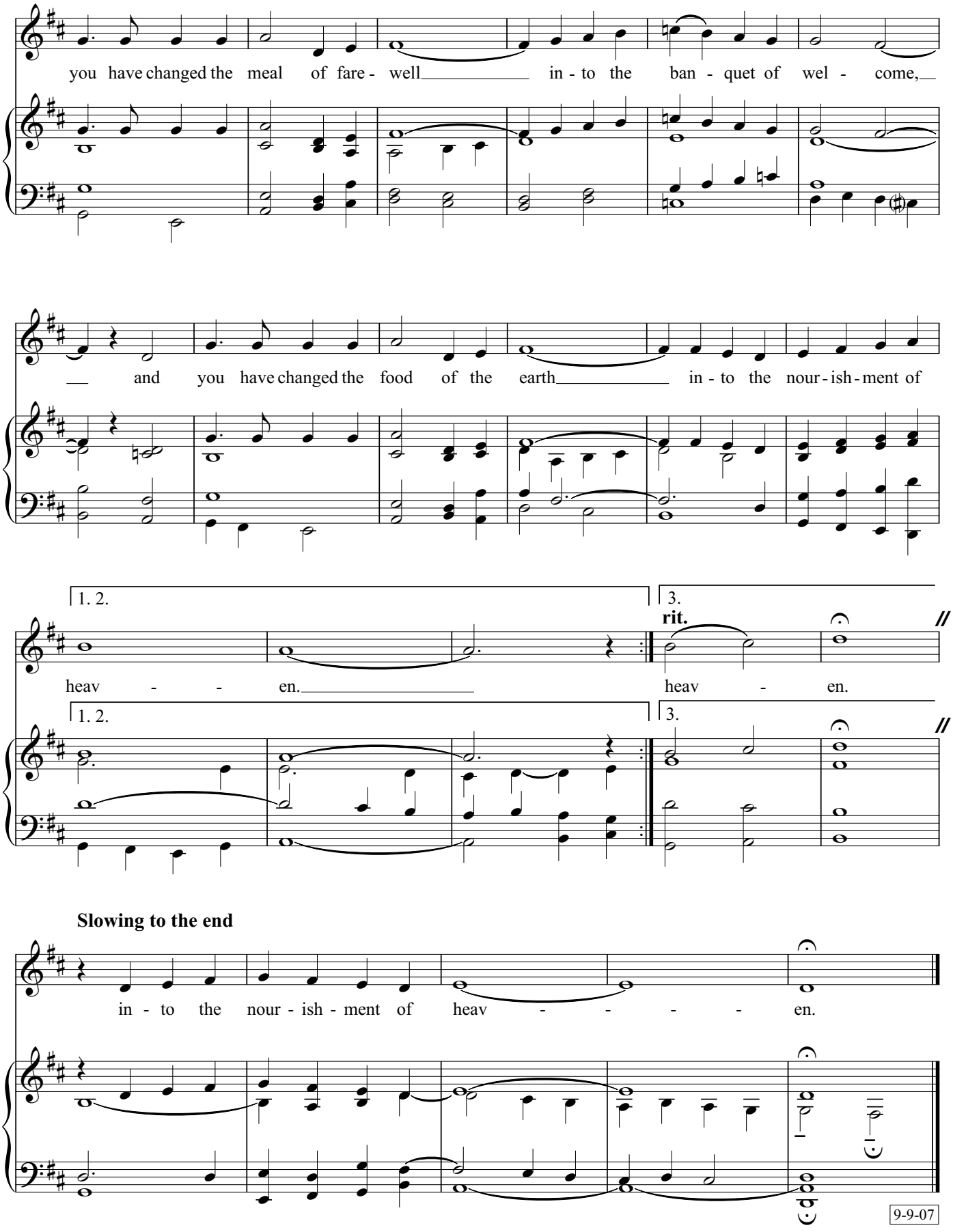
place at your ta - ble. Teach me
pres - ence in this mo - ment. Teach me
feast as you com - mand - ed. Teach me

Refrain

to know your love can be mine. For
to know your love can make me whole.
to spread your word, your love to tell.

©Copyright 2007, Kenneth Grinnell

Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward


you have changed the meal of fare - well in - to the ban - quet of wel - come,
and you have changed the food of the earth in - to the nour - ish - ment of
1. 2.
3.
rit.
heav - - en.
heav - en.
Slowing to the end
in - to the nour - ish - ment of heav - - - - en.
9-9-07

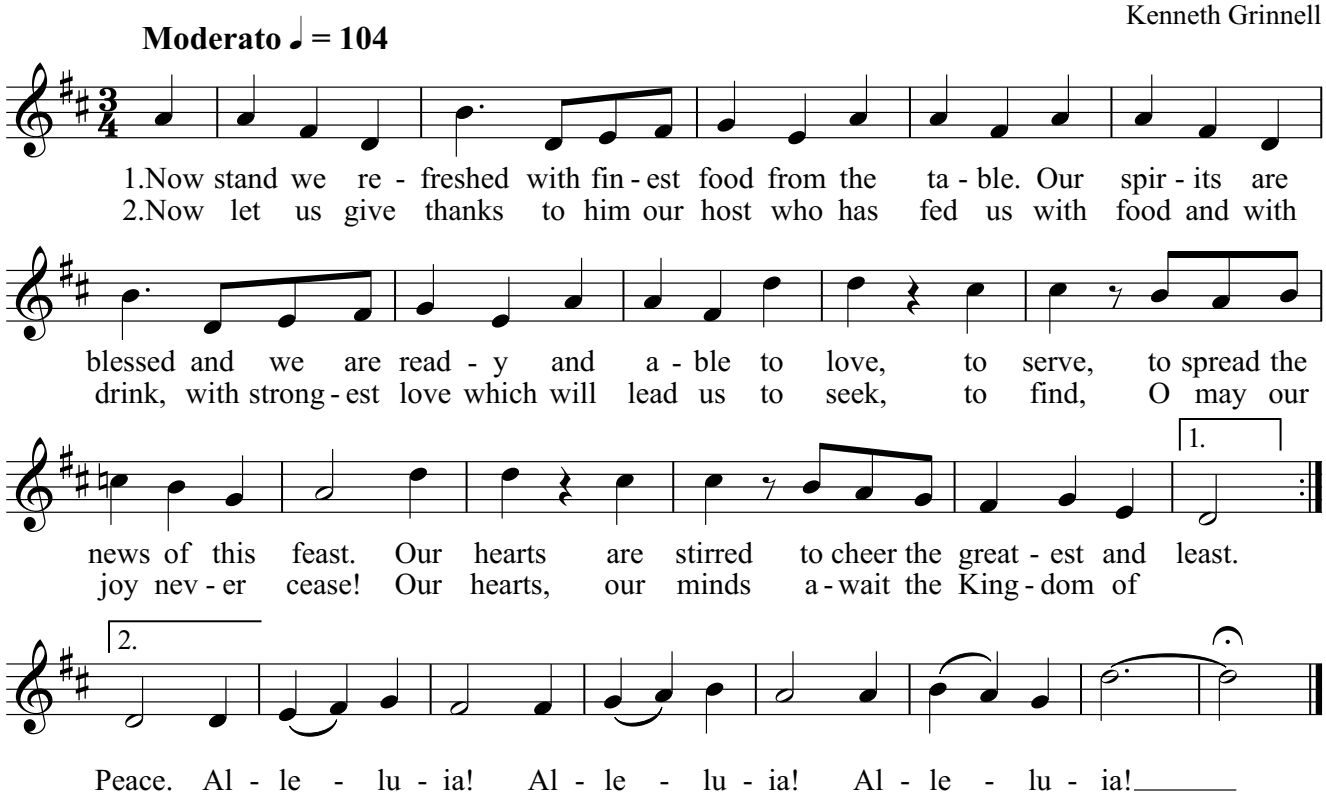
Now Stand We Refreshed

Communion Response

K. J. G.

EAST CORY'S LANE, 13.11.13.11.(12.)

Kenneth Grinnell



©Copyright 2007 Kenneth Grinnell

Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward

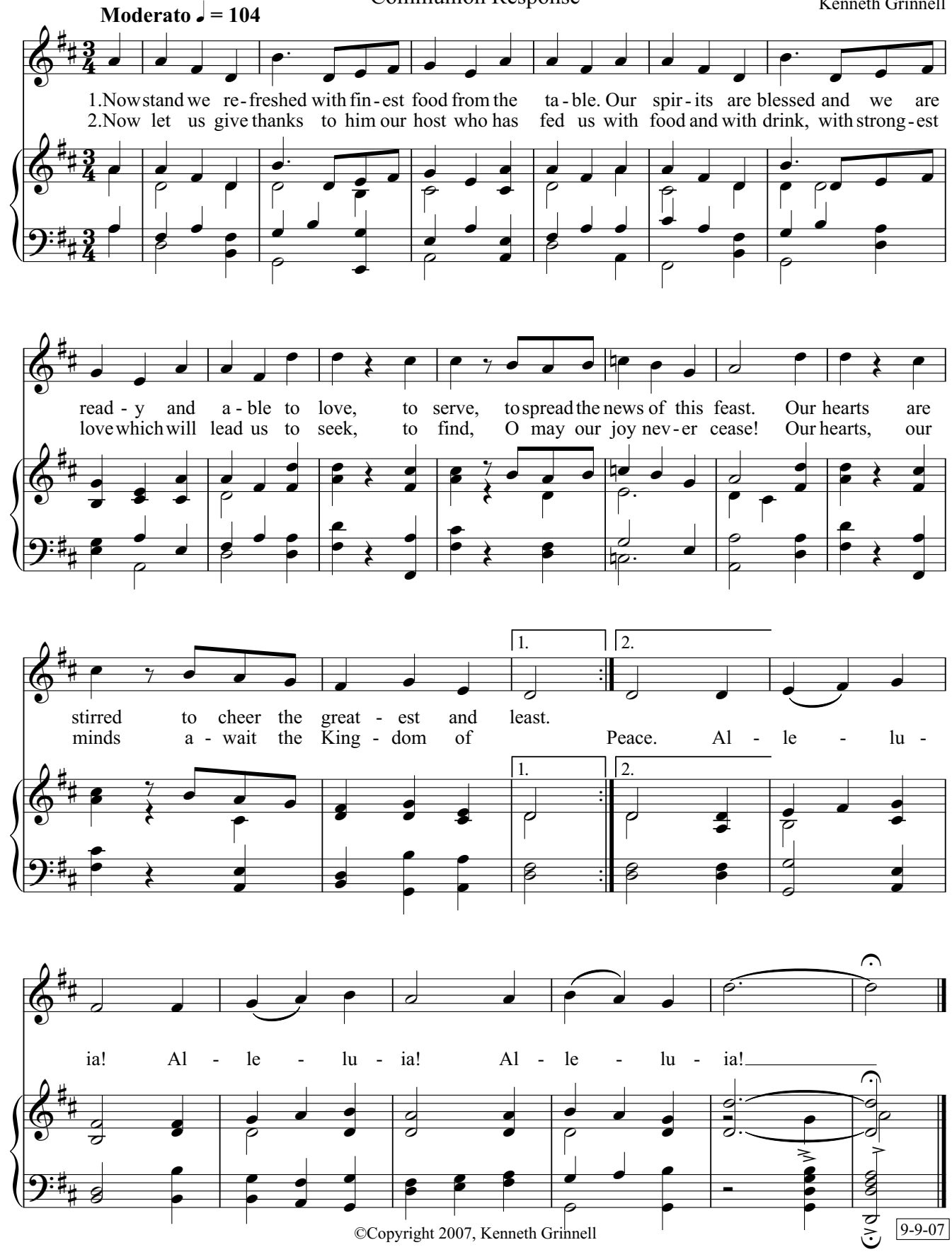
Now Stand We Refreshed

K. J. G.

Communion Response

EAST CORY'S LANE, 13.11.13.11.(12.)

Kenneth Grinnell



©Copyright 2007, Kenneth Grinnell

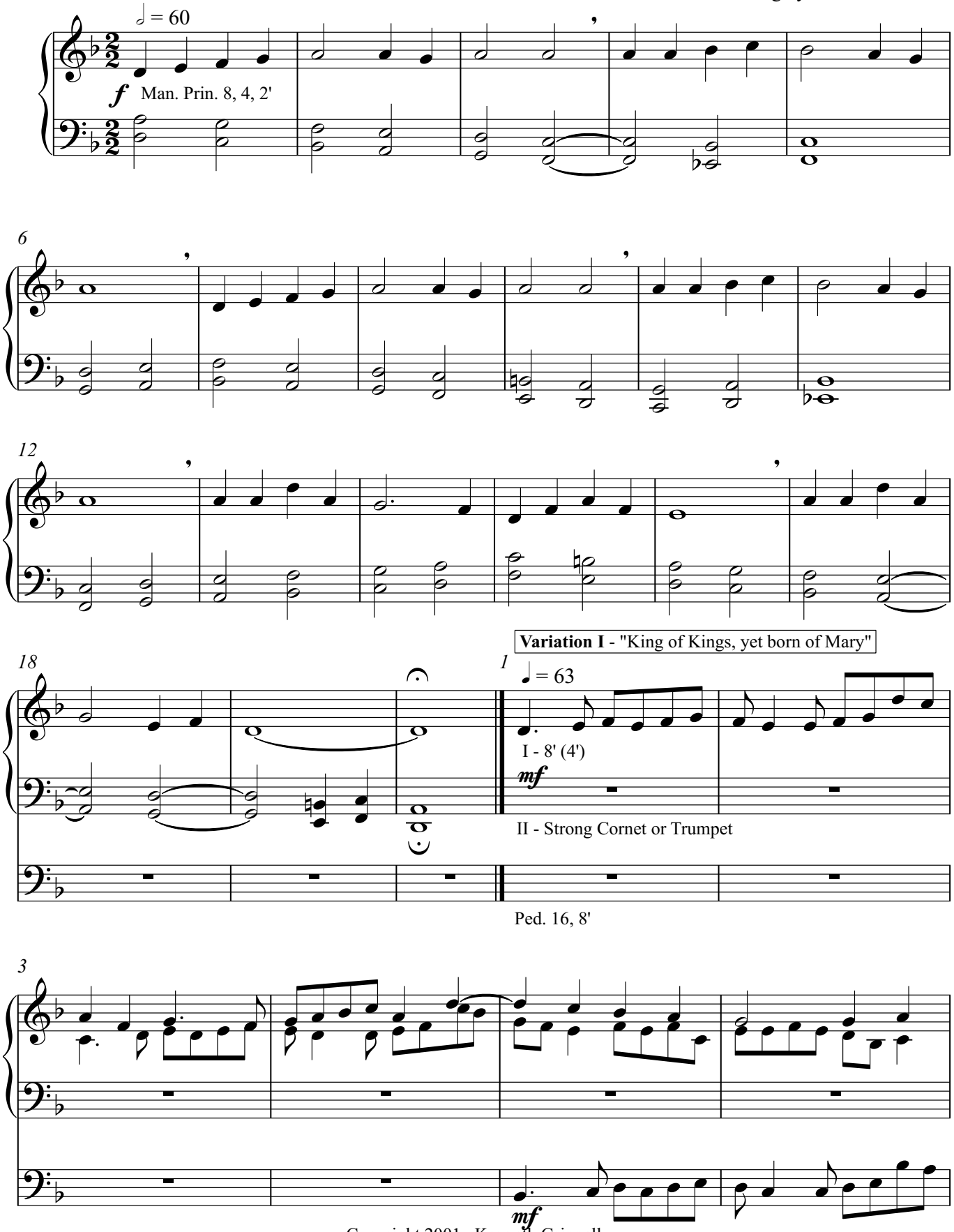
Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward

9-9-07

Variations "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

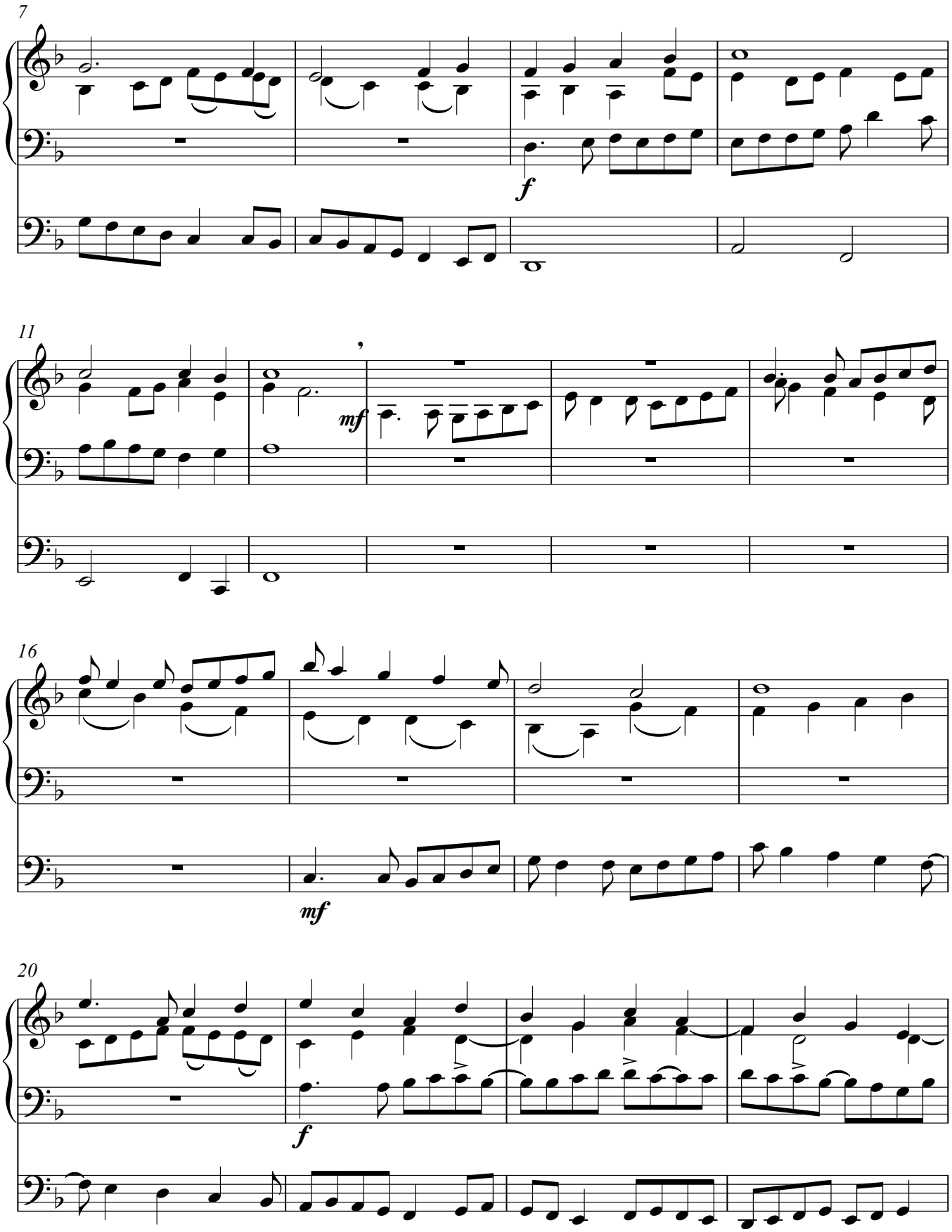
PICARDY
Setting by Kenneth Grinnell

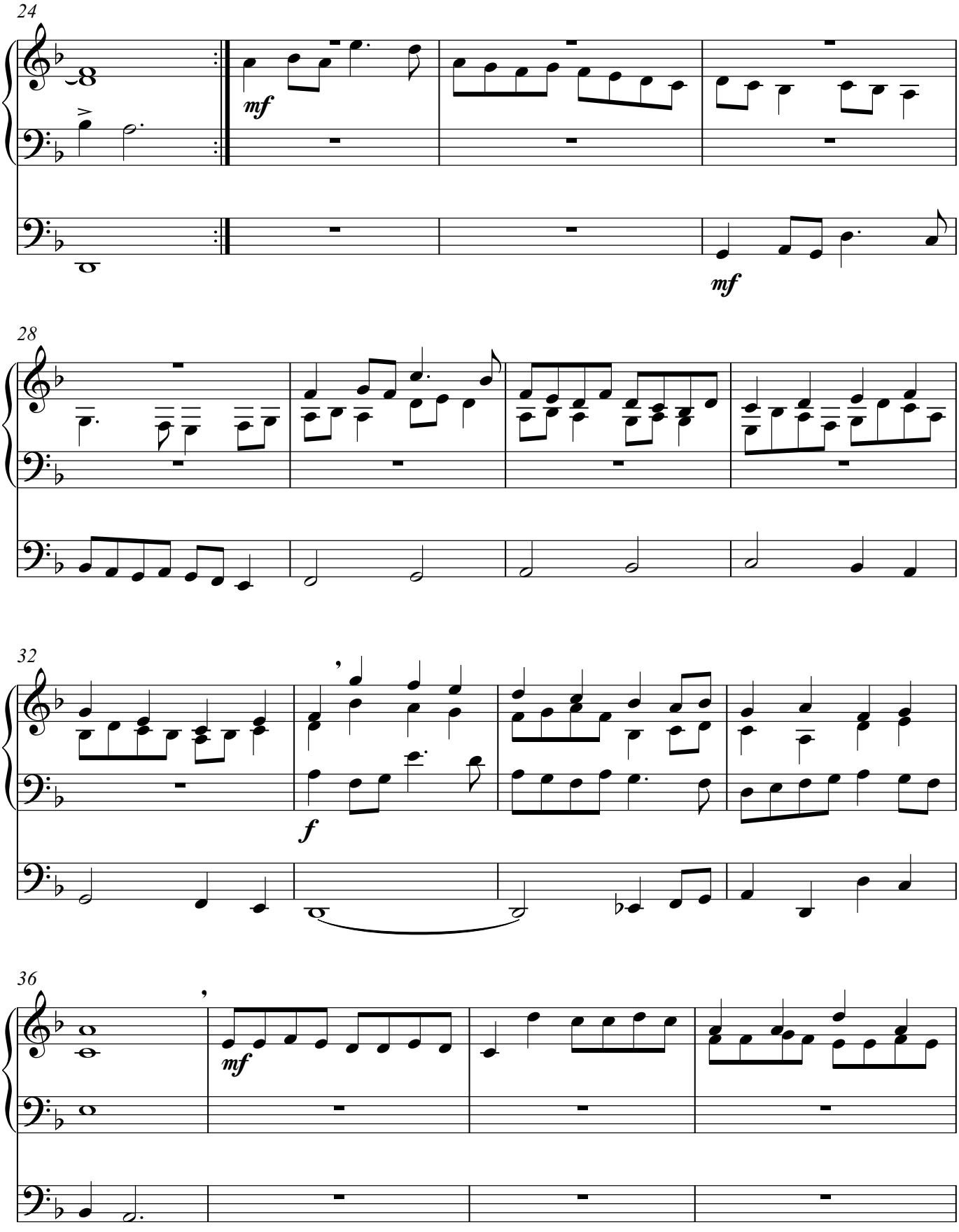
Theme - "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

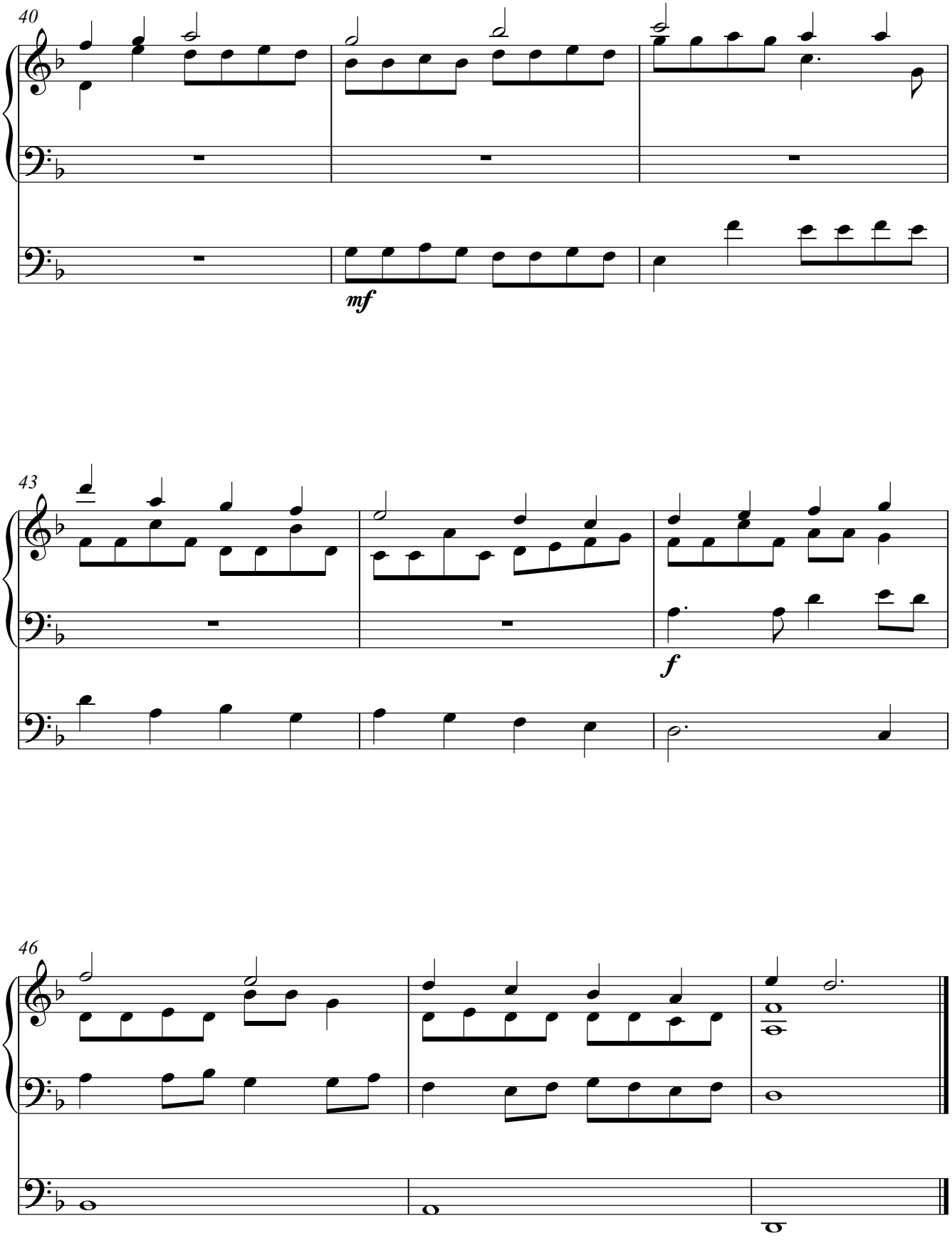


Copyright 2001, Kenneth Grinnell

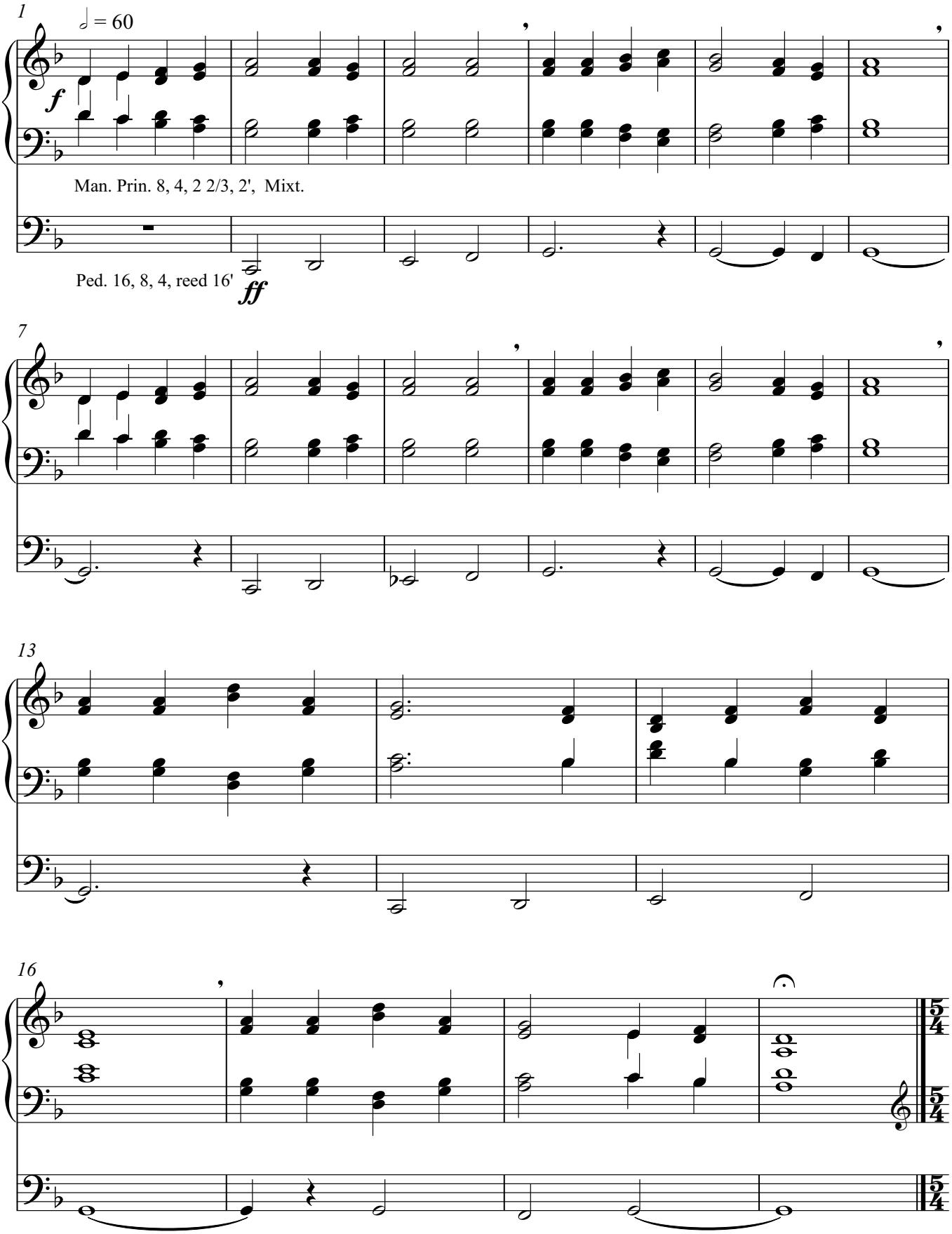
Permission to use and copy granted for Church Music Forward


7
f
11
mf
16
mf
20
f


24
mf
mf
28
32
f
36
mf


40
mf
43
f
46

Variation II - "Rank on rank the Hosts of Heaven"



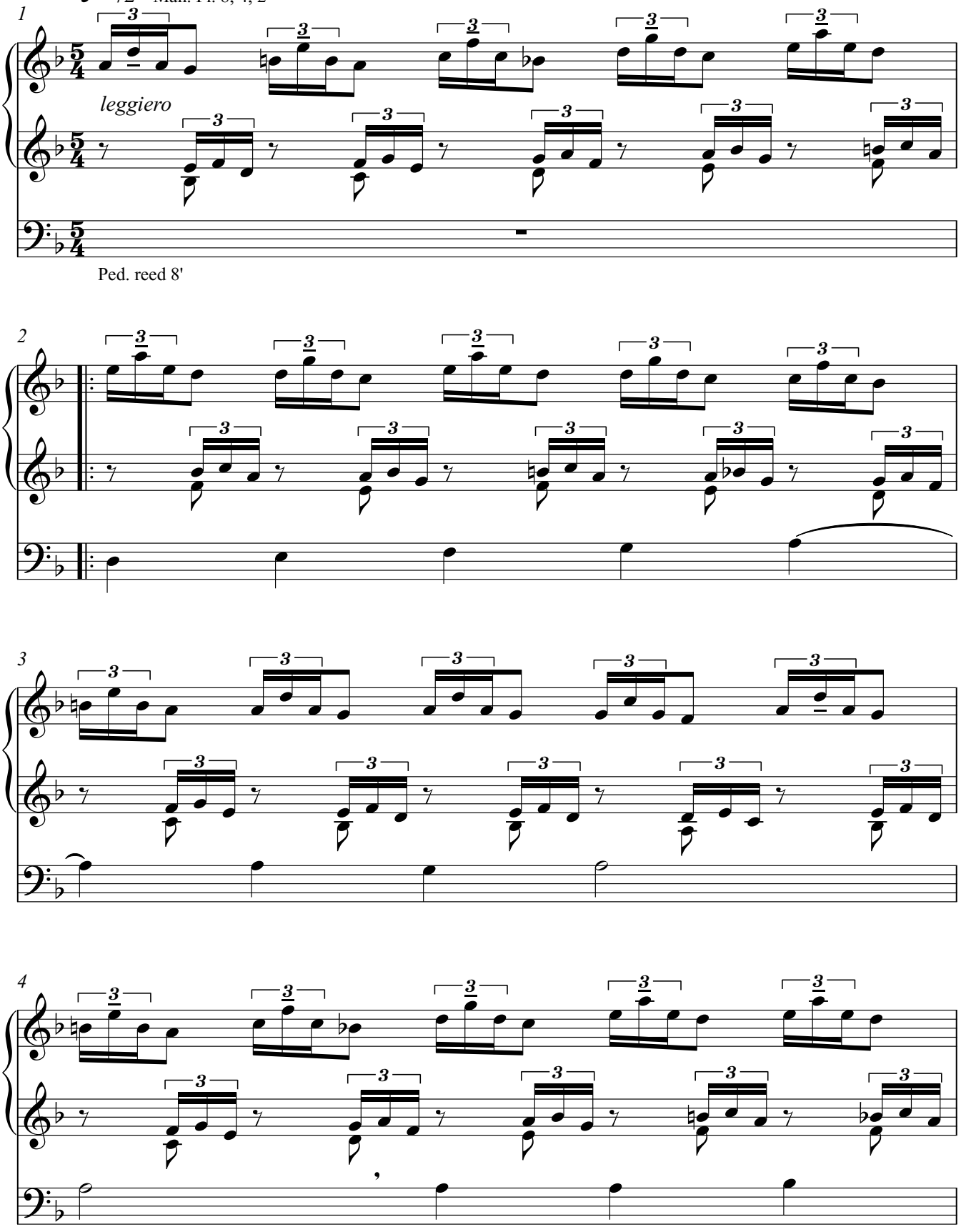
Variation III - "At His feet the six-winged Seraph"

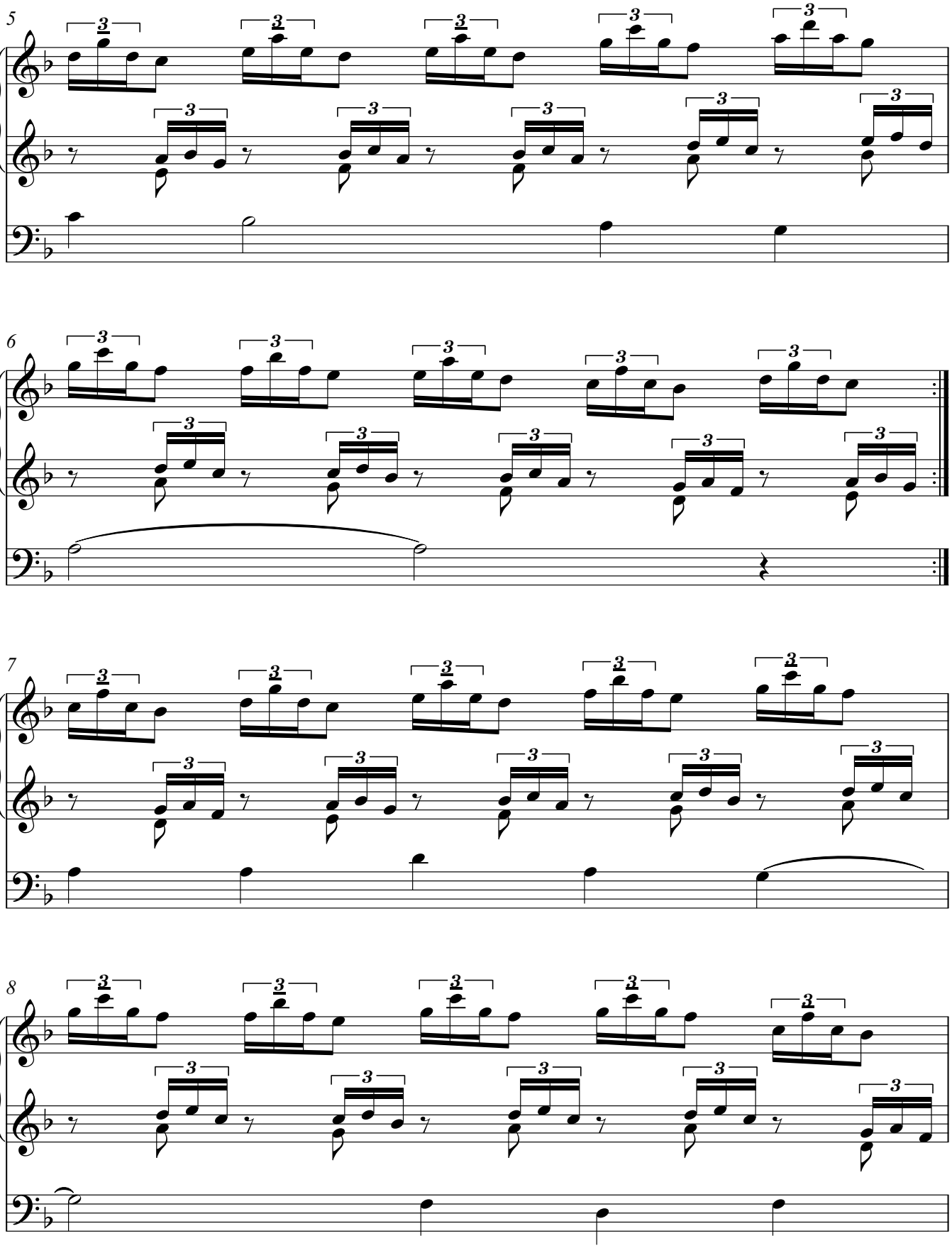
♩ = 72 Man. Fl. 8, 4, 2'

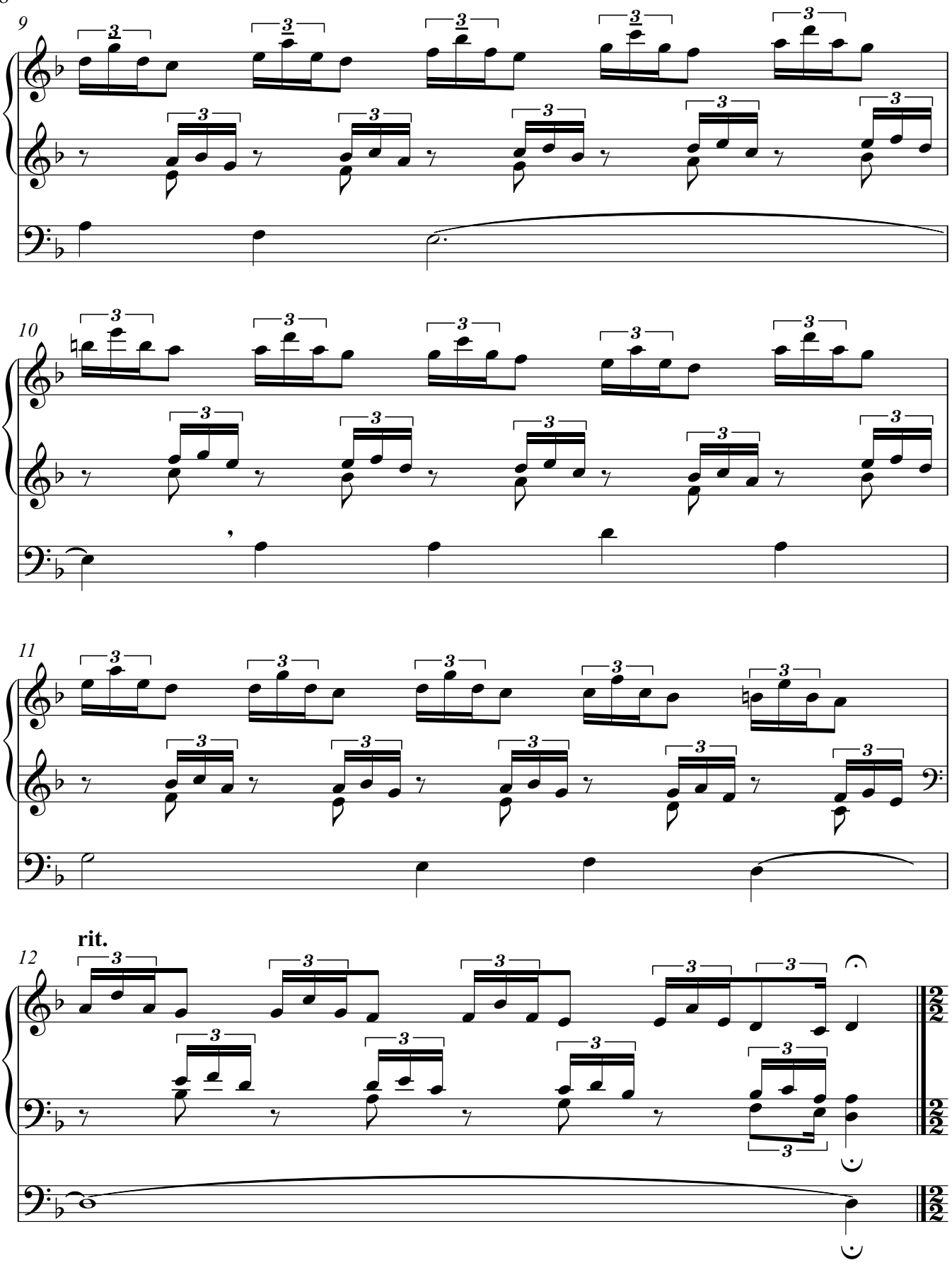
1

leggiero

Ped. reed 8'




5
6
7
8


9
10
11
12
rit.

Variation IV - Postlude

1

♩ = 60

Prin. (16), 8, 4, 2 2/3, 2', Mixt., Reeds 8, 4'

ff

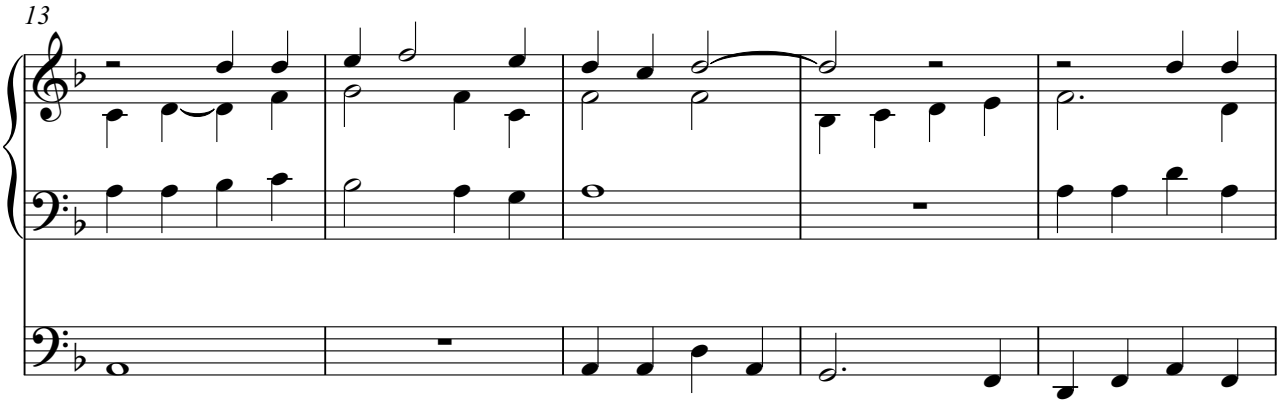
ff (Opt. - L.H. Solo Reed)

ff (32), 16, 8, 4', Reeds)

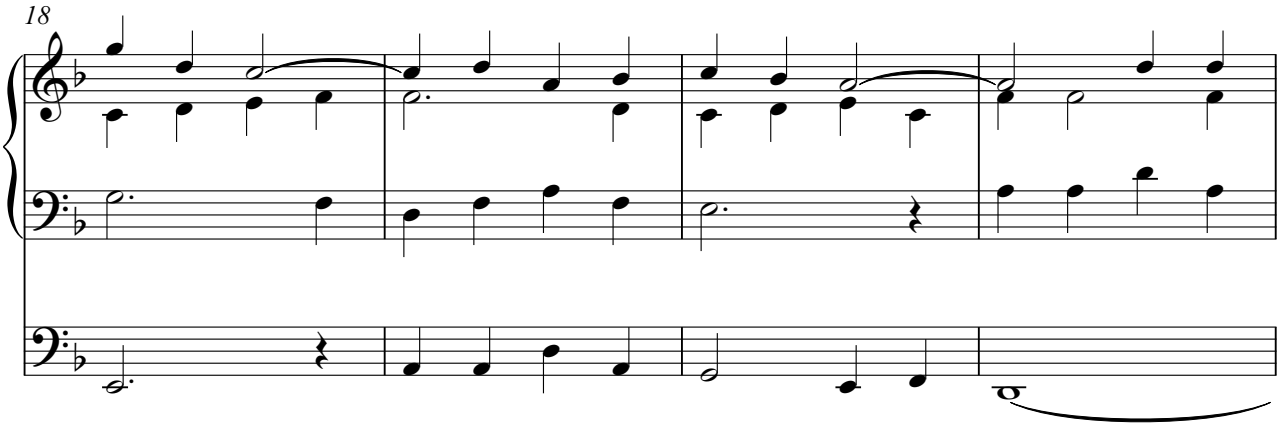
5

9

13

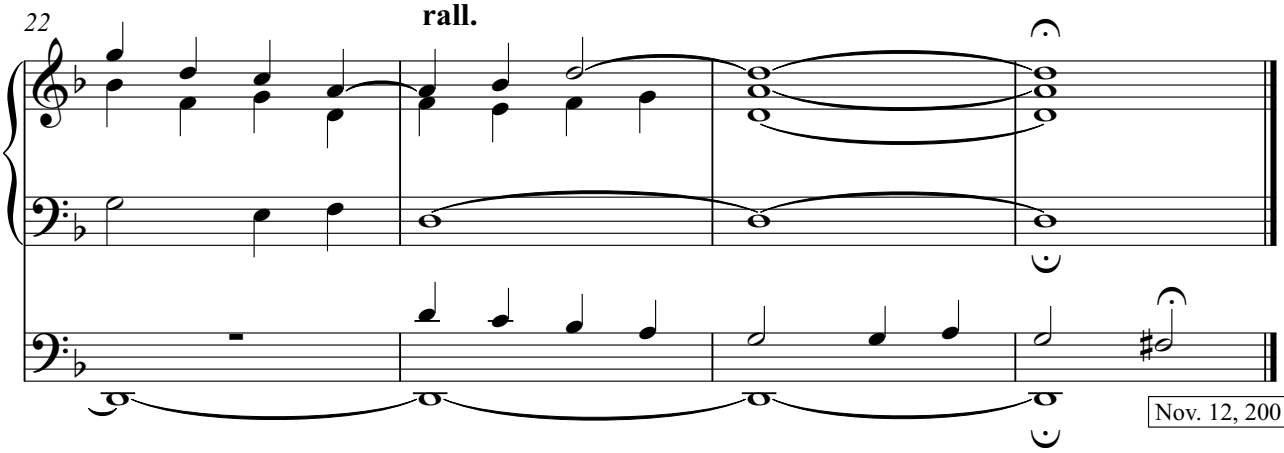


18



22

rall.



Nov. 12, 2001