9161 Score 9168 Preview Pack



A contemporary choral musical for Holy Week

by Pepper Choplin

orchestrated by Ed Hogan

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Words from the Composer

Certainly, John 3:16 is a profound statement of what we believe and who we are as Christians. As we tell the Passion story, God's love is demonstrated through every step. Here are some brief remarks about each piece. Four of them may serve as your Sunday anthems as you prepare the cantata. I've placed an asterisk beside those appropriate to use throughout the year.

*God So Loved - A ballad that sets off the phrase "God so loved" to give it space and emphasis. The light contemporary rhythm and melody brings an intimacy to the scripture.

Hosanna, God Save Us - This is both a celebration and a plea for God to come and rescue us. Now you have your Palm Sunday piece!

*By the Way You Love - Through my years of ministry, I've often remembered these words spoken in the upper room. No matter what we try to do as a church, the world will know we are disciples of Christ "by the way we love."

Is It I? - The echoes of the chorus create the effect of disciples' voices around the table. We join their voices as we remember the times we fall short of our faith in Christ.

*Remember I Am There - At our premiere, many were moved by this song's message. Sometimes, the most powerful thing we can remember is that Christ is always with us, even "when He seems so far away."

They Came to Arrest Him - I found this idea in my files. I wrote it soon after I saw the musical, *Hamilton*. Three weeks before our presentation, I tried the idea by writing words on the board and having the choir sing the rhythms back to me. The "one note melody" makes it easy to learn and helps dramatize the tension of Christ's arrest.

What Wondrous Love of the Cross - The music leads us through the story of the cross, from the trial to his last breath. The choir frames and reflects upon the scripture through the familiar hymn.

*Behold the Lord of Love - As I thought of a way to end, I remembered the "Lord of Love" verse from the hymn, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." This piece is a celebration of Christ's love that is appropriate before, during or after Easter. In the final section, the congregation joins the celebration.

I want to thank the Chancel Choir of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. For several weeks, a new piece was waiting for them each time they came to choir. Throughout the process, they helped me smooth out the traps and bumps to make it naturally singable. Every note has been crafted to help you prepare and sing the work with beauty and confidence.

Thank you for singing my music! Send me a note and let me know how it goes!

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God So Loved

Words based on JOHN 3:16-17

Words and Music by PEPPER CHOPLIN

NARRATOR: God so loved...God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world, through him, might be saved.



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*Throughout this piece, in similar places, take care to hold the choir's quarter notes a full beat with the cut-off right on beat 2.



God So Loved



God So Loved



God So Loved





God So Loved



Hosanna, God Save Us!

NARRATOR: God sent his Son to the world at a time and place that was immersed in chaos. Palestine was a land full of political turmoil. The Roman Empire controlled the area, but the people there resented the Romans and rebelled against their occupiers. Many struggled to survive and feared what the future would bring. They prayed for God to come and rescue them from the suffering and oppression.

When Jesus came, he performed many miracles. He preached with power and authority. Many began to believe that Jesus was their promised Messiah who would rescue them from their plight and establish a new kingdom of hope and peace.

When Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem, a great crowd welcomed him and shouted "Hosanna!" We think of "hosanna" as an exclamation of joy and praise, but the word literally means, "God save us!" So as the people welcomed him into the city, their hosannas were a call for Jesus to come and rescue them from their suffering and despair.

Today we join them in this call. Through all our challenges and fears, we too may call out, "Hosanna, God save us. God save us now." (music begins)



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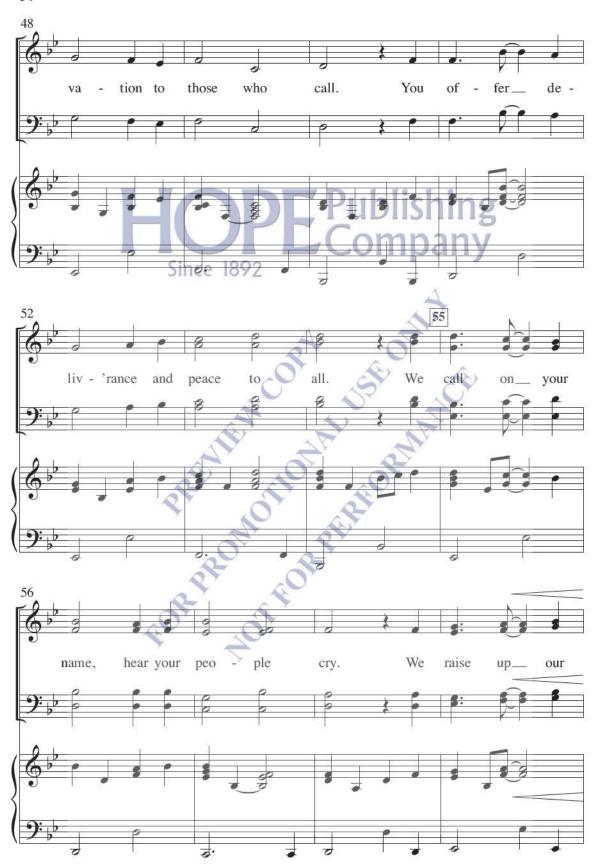
Hosanna, God Save Us!



Hosanna, God Save Us!



Hosanna, God Save Us!



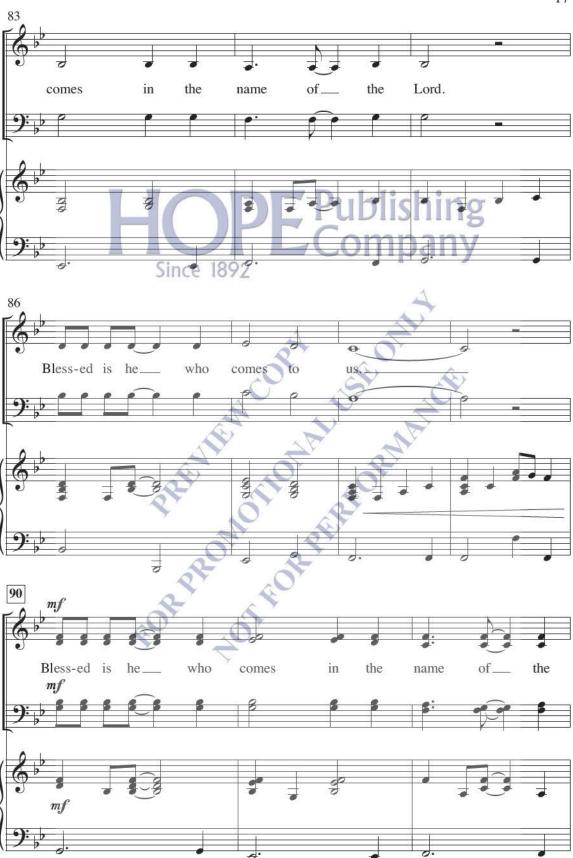
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Hosanna, God Save Us!



Hosanna, God Save Us!



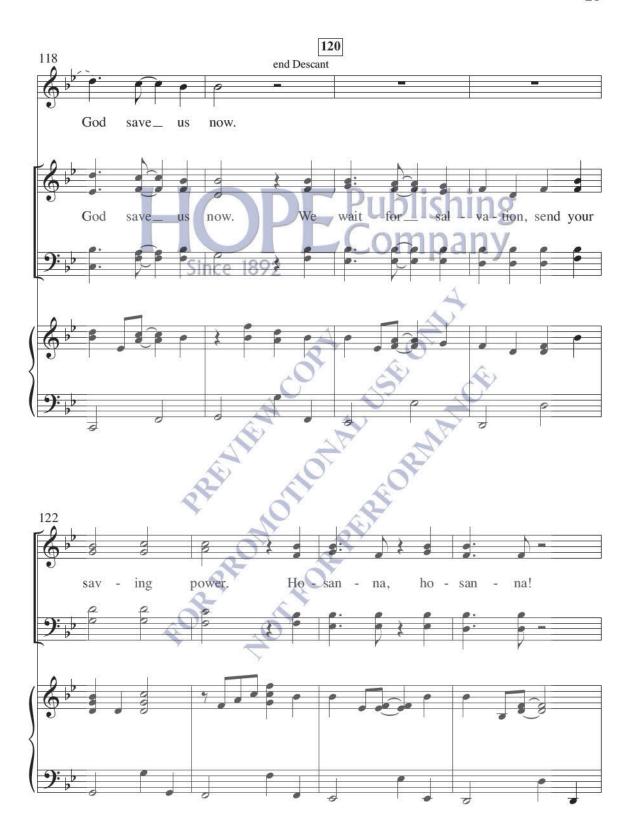
Hosanna, God Save Us!



Hosanna, God Save Us!



Hosanna, God Save Us!





Hosanna, God Save Us!

By the Way You Love

NARRATOR: After his triumphal entry into the city, Jesus took his disciples to share the Passover feast in an upper room. During this final meal, he prepared them for his impending death and taught them one last time who they were called to be.

The disciples had argued over who would have the highest position in his new kingdom. Jesus used this moment to teach them to live a life of humility and servanthood. Instead of ruling over others, he taught them to serve others through a life of love.

As Jesus said to his disciples, so now he says to us, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. And by this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (music begins)



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By the Way You Love





By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



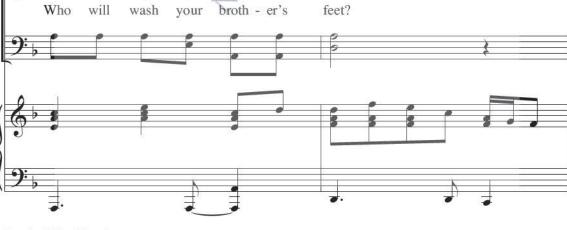
By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love



By the Way You Love

Is It 1?

NARRATOR: One of his disciples would fail the test of love. Even before the Passover meal, Judas had secretly arranged to betray Jesus to his enemies.

During the meal, Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me."

The disciples were shocked and each one blurted out, "Is it I? Is it I who will betray you?"

Their words remind us of times we fail the Lord. Sometimes we don't live in the way of love. Other times, we may even deny we are followers of Christ.

So we have reason to echo their question: Is it I? Is it I who will deny that I even know you? Is it I who would turn from my faith or fail to live a life of love? (music begins)

Words based on MATTHEW 26: 20-21 Words and Music by PEPPER CHOPLIN



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Is It I?



Is It I?



Is It I?



Is It I?



Remember 1 Am There

NARRATOR: At the end of their Passover meal, Jesus used the bread and the cup to share the meaning of his impending suffering and death. For us, the Lord's supper provides a way to remember his sacrifice and to be reminded that he is always with us. Even when we have our doubts and our faith is tested; even when we feel alone, we take the bread and the cup to remember the constant presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. (music begins)



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Remember I Am There



Remember I Am There



Remember I Am There



^{*} Dotted line: reminder to go down to the next note rather than sing melody.

Remember I Am There



Remember I Am There



Remember I Am There





Remember I Am There

They Came to Arrest Him

NARRATOR: After singing a hymn, Jesus led his disciples through the darkness to the garden of Gethsemane. There he took a few of his group to go with him to pray.

As he faced his impending suffering and death, he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

As Jesus submitted to the Father's will, a mob with torches and swords approached with Judas leading the way. (music begins)



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They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him



They Came to Arrest Him

What Wondrous Love of the Cross

Arranged by PEPPER CHOPLIN

WONDROUS LOVE Appalachian Folk Tune Southern Harmony, 1835

NARRATOR: While in the upper room, Jesus said to his disciples, "Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." When Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die on a cross, he demonstrated his great love for us.



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What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross





What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



What Wondrous Love of the Cross



God So Loved (Reprise)

Words based on JOHN 3:16-17

Words and Music by PEPPER CHOPLIN

NARRATOR: What wondrous love is this, that God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.



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God So Loved (Reprise)



God So Loved (Reprise)



God So Loved (Reprise)

Behold the Lord of Love

NARRATOR: When we grasp the depths of Christ's love, our hearts are full of gratitude and we are moved to rise and praise the Lord of Love. $(music\ begins)$

Words and Music by PEPPER CHOPLIN

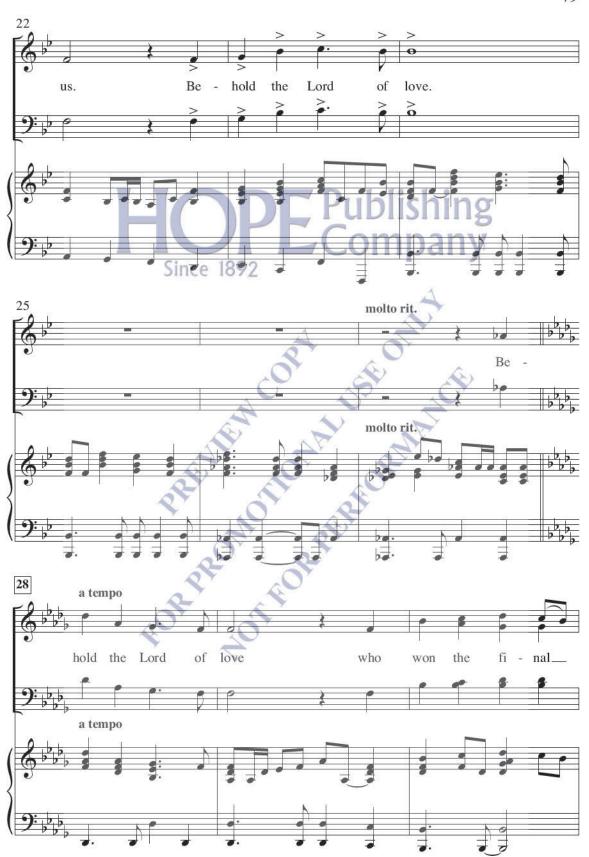


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Behold the Lord of Love



Behold the Lord of Love



Behold the Lord of Love



Behold the Lord of Love



Behold the Lord of Love



Behold the Lord of Love



Congregational part for "Behold the Lord of Love"

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" Words: Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring Music: George J. Elvey



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Narrations

1. God So Loved (narration begins after music starts)

God so loved...God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world, through him, might be saved.

2. Hosanna, God Save Us! (music begins after narration)

God sent his Son to the world at a time and place that was immersed in chaos. Palestine was a land full of political turmoil. The Roman Empire controlled the area, but the people there resented the Romans and rebelled against their occupiers. Many struggled to survive and feared what the future would bring. They prayed for God to come and rescue them from the suffering and oppression.

When Jesus came, he performed many miracles. He preached with power and authority. Many began to believe that Jesus was their promised Messiah who would rescue them from their plight and establish a new kingdom of hope and peace.

When Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem, a great crowd welcomed him and shouted "Hosanna!" We think of "hosanna" as an exclamation of joy and praise, but the word literally means, "God save us!" So as the people welcomed him into the city, their hosannas were a call for Jesus to come and rescue them from their suffering and despair.

Today we join them in this call. Through all our challenges and fears, we too may call out, "Hosanna, God saye us. God saye us now." (music begins)

3. By the Way You Love (music begins after narration)

After his triumphal entry into the city, Jesus took his disciples to share the Passover feast in an upper room. During this final meal, he prepared them for his impending death and taught them one last time who they were called to be.

The disciples had argued over who would have the highest position in his new kingdom. Jesus used this moment to teach them to live a life of humility and servanthood. Instead of ruling over others, he taught them to *serve* others through a life of love.

As Jesus said to his disciples, so now he says to us, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. And by this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (music begins)

4. Is It I? (music begins after narration)

One of his disciples would fail the test of love. Even before the Passover meal, Judas had secretly arranged to betray Jesus to his enemies.

During the meal, Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples were shocked and each one blurted out, "Is it I? Is it I who will betray you?"

Their words remind us of times we fail the Lord. Sometimes we don't live in the way of love. Other times, we may even deny we are followers of Christ. So we have reason to echo their question: Is it I? Is it I who will deny that I even know you? Is it I who would turn from my faith or fail to live a life of love? (music begins)

5. Remember I Am There (music begins after narration)

At the end of their Passover meal, Jesus used the bread and the cup to share the meaning of his impending suffering and death. For us, the Lord's supper provides a way to remember his sacrifice and to be reminded that he is always with us. Even when we have our doubts and our faith is tested; even when we feel alone, we take the bread and the cup to remember the constant presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. (music begins)

6. They Came to Arrest Him (music begins after narration)

After singing a hymn, Jesus led his disciples through the darkness to the garden of Gethsemane. There he took a few of his group to go with him to pray.

As he faced his impending suffering and death, he prayed, "Father, if you are wiling, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

As Jesus submitted to the Father's will, a mob with torches and swords approached with Judas leading the way. (music begins)

Narrations (continued)

7. What Wondrous Love of the Cross (narration begins after music starts)

While in the upper room, Jesus said to his disciples, "Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." When Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die on a cross, he demonstrated his great love for us.

(on cue, m. 17) And Pilate said, "What would you have me do with him?" "Crucify him," the crowd answered. Pilate said, "But I find no fault with him." But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Seeing that he was getting nowhere, he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

(on cue, m. 39) So Pilate had him flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They knelt before Jesus and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews."

(on cue, m. 61) Then they led Jesus away to the place called Calvary. There, they crucified him with two others, one on the right hand and the another on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

(on cue, m. 88) Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and the disciple whom he loved. When Jesus saw them there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son" and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

(on cue, m. 102) And there came a darkness over all the land. The sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

8. God So Loved (Reprise) (narration begins after music starts)

What wondrous love is this, that God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

9. Behold the Lord of Love (music begins after narration)

When we grasp the depths of Christ's love, our hearts are full of gratitude and we are moved to rise and praise the Lord of Love. (music begins)

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