

# Divine Encounter

SSAA

I. The Invitation

II. The Offering

❖ III. The Blessing ❖

Craig Courtney

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## From the Composer

*Divine Encounter* is a musical narrative that describes God's invitation to experience the sustenance that only He can provide, our response to His gifts and the blessing He in turn bestows upon our response.

The first movement, *The Invitation*, is based on Isaiah 55:1, 6. Most musical settings of the first verse are lyric and meditative. In *Divine Encounter*, however, the mood is one of joyful celebration, an invitation to the Great Dance. In contrast, the sixth verse is regal, earnest and authoritative and the architecture of the movement is built upon the contrast between these two styles.

The second movement, *The Offering*, is based on Micah 6:6-8. As we partake of God's bounty, our gratitude urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to serve God and people alike.

The final movement, *The Blessing*, is based on Numbers 6:24-26. As Jesus blessed and multiplied the fish and bread, so God blesses the offering we bring to Him.

These movements can be performed as a suite on the concert stage or the beginning, middle and end of a mass or church service.

### Ancillary Products

Score and parts for brass sextet (BP2292A)

Score and parts for string quartet (BP2292B)

Full performance accompaniment CD (BP2292CD)

Score and parts for full orchestra (BP2292D)

Alternate piano accompaniment (BP2292E)

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Marvin L. Crawford, Director of Music and the Arts,  
and Joe McConathy, Organist;  
First Presbyterian Church, Fort Collins, Colorado

# The Blessing

For SSAA Choir and Organ or Piano and String Quartet, Brass Sextet or Orchestra

Numbers 6:24-26

CRAIG COURTNEY  
(ASCAP)

**Comforting** ♩ = 76

Soprano I  
Soprano II

Organ

*rit.* *unis. mp*

The

*mp* *rit.*

*a tempo*

Lord bless you and

*a tempo*

keep you, and keep you. The

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

\*Also available for SATB (BP2258) or TTBB (BP2295) voices.

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Lord make His face, His face

13 14 15 16

*mf* shine up -

17 18 19 20

*più forte* on you, up - on you and be

21 22 23 24

*mp* gra - cious un - to you.

25 26 27 28

SI *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

SII *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

AI *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

AII *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

The Lord

The Lord

The Lord, the

The Lord, the

*rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

29 30 31 32

bless you and keep you,

bless you and keep you,

Lord bless you and keep you,

Lord bless you and keep you,

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

33 34 35

and keep you. The

and keep you. The

and keep you.

and keep you.

36 37 38

Lord lift up His face

Lord lift up His face,

The Lord lift His face,

The Lord lift His face,

39 40 41

*mf*

His face

*mf*

His face, His face un to

*mf*

His face, His face un - to

*mf*

His face, His face un - to

3 3 3 3 3 3

42 43 44

*f*

un - to you,

*f*

you, un - to you,

*f*

you, un - to you,

*f*

you, His face un - to you, un -

3 3 3 3 3 3

45 46 47

un - to you, and give you  
un - to you, and give you  
un - to you, and give you  
to you, un - to you, and give you

48 49 50

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 48 to 50. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "un - to you, and give you" on the first three staves, and "to you, un - to you, and give you" on the fourth staff. The piano part includes triplet figures in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. Measure numbers 48, 49, and 50 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

peace, give you peace. *mp*  
peace, give you peace. *mp*  
peace, give you peace, *mp*  
peace, give you peace, *mp*

51 52 53

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 51 to 53. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "peace, give you peace." on the first three staves, and "peace, give you peace," on the fourth staff. The piano part continues with triplet figures in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. Measure numbers 51, 52, and 53 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present at the beginning of each vocal line.



*rit.* *mp*  
*rit.* *mp*  
*rit.*  
*rit.*  
*rit.*  
*rit.*

A -  
A -  
give you peace.  
give you peace.

54 55 56

*a tempo*  
*a tempo*  
*a tempo mp*  
*a tempo mp*  
*a tempo*

men, a -  
men, a -  
men, a -  
men, a -  
men, a -

57 58 59 60

men, a - men, a - men, a -  
men, a -  
men, a - men, a - men, a -  
men, a - men, a -

*mp*

61 62 63 64

men.  
men, a - men, a - men.  
men, a - men, a - men.  
men, a - men, a - men.

*rit.*

65 66 67 68 69

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