

for Nick Waterman, in loving appreciation for his fifty years of service
to the choir at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scituate, Massachusetts

Let the Lower Lights Be Burning

For SATB Choir and Organ

Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Based on *Pleading Savior*
Folk Melody from *The Christian Lyre*, 1830
Setting by HOWARD HELVEY
(ASCAP)

The inspiration for this hymn text by Philip P. Bliss came from a portion of an 1870 sermon delivered by Dwight L. Moody:

On a dark, stormy night, when the waves rolled like mountains, and not a star was to be seen, a boat, rocking and plunging, neared the Cleveland harbor.

“Are you sure this is Cleveland?” asked the captain, seeing only one light from the lighthouse.

“Quite sure, sir,” replied the pilot.

“Where are the lower lights?”

“Gone out, sir.”

“Can you make the harbor?”

“We must, or perish, sir!”

And with a strong hand and a brave heart, the old pilot turned the wheel. But alas, in the darkness he missed the channel, and with a crash upon the rocks the boat was shivered, and many a life lost in a watery grave. Brethren, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse: *let us keep the lower lights burning!*

Andante con espressione ♩ = 72-76

I. *light solo stop*

Musical score for the organ introduction, measures 1-4. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is Andante con espressione, with a metronome marking of ♩ = 72-76. The first section is marked 'I. light solo stop'. The music is in treble and bass clefs. The first staff (treble) has a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *sempre legato*. The second staff (bass) has a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *sempre legato*. The score includes a first ending bracket over measures 1-2 and a second ending bracket over measures 3-4. Pedal points are indicated by '1 Ped.' and '2' under the bass staff.

Musical score for the vocal and organ accompaniment, measures 5-8. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is Andante con espressione, with a metronome marking of ♩ = 72-76. The first section is marked 'SA unis. poco rit.' and the second section is marked 'a tempo mp sempre legato'. The music is in treble and bass clefs. The first staff (treble) has a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *sempre legato*. The second staff (bass) has a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *sempre legato*. The score includes a first ending bracket over measures 5-6 and a second ending bracket over measures 7-8. Pedal points are indicated by '5', '6', '7', and '8' under the bass staff.

Bright - ly — beams our — Fa - ther's mer - cy from His — light - house —

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ev - er - more, But to us He gives the keep - ing of the lights a -

TB unis. *mp sempre legato*

9 10 11 12

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. It features a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line begins with a rest in measure 9, then enters in measure 10 with the lyrics 'ev - er - more, But to us He gives the keep - ing of the lights a -'. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support with eighth and quarter notes.

long the shore. Let the low - er lights be burn - ing!

mf *mf*

13 14 15

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 15. The vocal line continues with 'long the shore. Let the low - er lights be burn - ing!'. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings of *mf* are present above the vocal line in measures 14 and 15, and below the piano accompaniment in measure 14.

Send a gleam a - cross the wave! For to us He

mp *mp*

16 17 18

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16 through 18. The vocal line concludes with 'Send a gleam a - cross the wave! For to us He'. The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamic markings of *mp* are present above the vocal line in measures 17 and 18, and below the piano accompaniment in measure 18.

gives the keep - ing of the lights a - long the shore.

19 20 21

I. light solo stop

22 23 24 25

poco rit. div. p a tempo, *mp*
Dark the night of sin has set - tled, loud the an - gry -
poco rit. div. p a tempo, *mp*

poco rit. p a tempo II.

26 27 28 29

bil - lows roar; Ea - ger eyes are watch - ing, long - ing,

30 31 32

for the lights a - long the shore.

33 34 35 (- Ped.)

Let the low - er lights be burn - ing! Send a gleam a -

36 37 38 (+ Ped.)