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THE
CENTER FOR
CONGREGATIONAL
SONG

rebirth

SINGING DEATH, SINGING LIFE

**"SINGING CREATION
AND RECREATION"**

Marcell Silva Steuernagel



July 21, 2026

Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, New Jersey

*Sponsored by
Deborah Carlton Loftis, FHS
in Memory of
Shirley Erena Murray, FHS*

GATHERING: INVITED INTO CREATION

"All Creatures of our God and King"

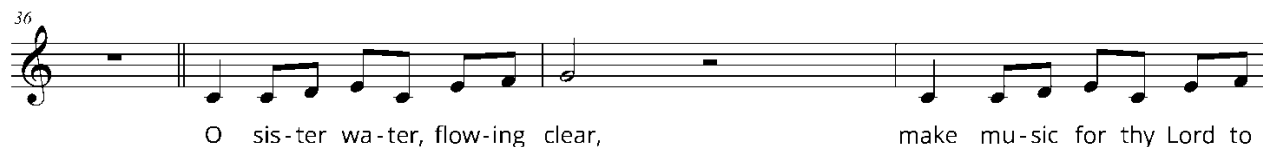
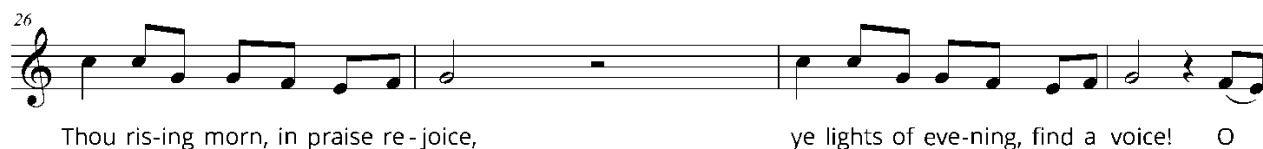
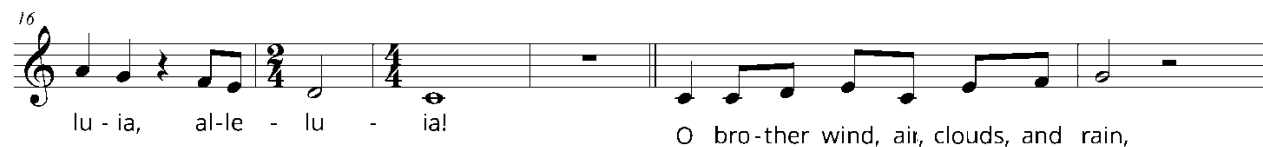
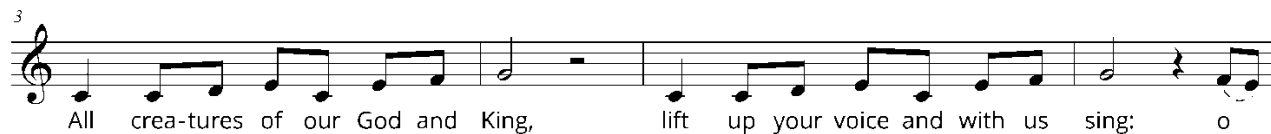
Singing Instructions

Stanza 1: leader

Stanza 2-3: leader + choir

Stanza 4: all SATB, *a capella*

Stanza 5: all unison + SATB "amen."



44

night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight, o praise ye, o praise ye, al-le-

49

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

56

S Dear mo-ther earth, who day by day un - fold-est bless-ings on your way, Al-le-

A Dear mo-ther earth, who day by day un - fold-est bless-ings on your way, Al-le-

T Dear mo-ther earth, who day by day un - fold-est bless-ings on your way, Al-le-

B Dear mo-ther earth, who day by day un - fold-est bless-ings on your way, Al-le-

60

S lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,

A lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,

T lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,

B lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,

64

S let them God's glo - ry al - so show! O praise ye, o

A let them God's glo - ry al - so show! O praise ye, o

T let them God's glo - ry al - so show! O praise ye, o

B let them God's glo - ry al - so show! O praise ye, o

67

S praise ye, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A praise ye, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

T praise ye, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

B praise ye, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

72

All ye who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers take your

76

part, o praise ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear,

81

praise God and on him cast your care! O praise ye, o praise ye, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

86

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia!

86

S A - men

A A - men

T A - men

B A - men

A - men

Text: Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; trans. William H. Draper, 1925, adapt. 1987
 music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623, LASST UNS ERFREUEN. Arr.: Marcell Silva Steuernagel.

Welcome: Marcell Silva Steuernagel

Silence & Scripture Reading I: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27, 31a¹

"The Wind That Stirs the Sea to Sing"

Singing Instructions

Verse 1: leader

Verse 2: leader + choir SATB, congregation on melody

Verses 3-6: all SATB

S
A



1. The wind that stirs the sea to sing, to surge and roar and
2. A - rise and blow from God's deep core, a stead - y, driv - ing
3. Breath as the breath of life that lifts our hearts to sing Your
4. Then with Your flame and wind ig - nite the hope we sing and
5. Till we, like Pe - ter, find the strength to live each day this
6. And then the song with - in our heart will sound in har - mo -

T
B



S
A



drum; is ech - oed in the prayer we bring: o Ho - ly Spir - it,
gale, and fill this church for - ev - er more with faith that will not
praise! For all the rich and var - ied gifts that bless our nights and
pray: That we will fol - low Christ the light, The truth, the life, the
creed: your love, its breadth and depth and length en - cir - cles ev - 'ry
ny; with that great hymn that You im - part to wind and shore and

T
B



S
A



come; is ech - oed in the prayer we bring: o Ho - ly Spir - it, come!
fail; and fill this church for - ev - er more with faith that will not fail.
days; for all the rich and var - ied gifts that bless our nights and days.
way; that we will fol - low Christ the light, The truth, the life, the way.
need; your love, its breadth and depth and length en - cir - cles ev - 'ry need.
sea; with that great hymn that You im - part to wind and shore and sea.

T
B



Text: Thomas H. Troeger (2014), © 2015, Oxford University Press

Music: Marcell Silva Steuernagel (2021), SERRA. Arr.: Marcell Silva Steuernagel

¹ The Inclusive Bible (2009)

LAMENT: OUR SINS AGAINST CREATION

"Hemos cubierto la tierra"

Singing Instructions

Teach chorus.

Verse 1 + chorus: leader

Verse 2 + chorus: leader + choir SATB

Verses 3-5: all SATB



1. He - mos cu - bier - to la tie - rra de som-bras y de do - lor;
2. He - mos cer - ca - do la tie - rra con re - jas de_u - na pri - sión,
3. Es - te, Se - ñor, no_es tu rei - no; ni tu vo - lun - tad, Se - ñor,
4. Cuan - do Je - sús vi - no_al mun-do nos di - jo: "La luz yo soy,
5. Cum - ple, Se - ñor, tu pro - me - sa, ven - ga tu rei - no de_a - mor



pue - blos en - te - ros que gi - men en mu - da de - so - la - ción.
pa - ra ma - tar al her - ma - no, de ham - bre y de_o - pre - sión.
que di - vi - di - dos vi - va - mos en u - na cár - cel de_ho - rror.
si mi ver - dad les a - lum - bra ve - rán mi li - be - ra - ción;
y que_el sol de tu jus - ti - cia vuel - va_a_a-lum - brar - nos, Se - ñor.



Ni - ños que mue - ren de ni - ños, po - bres que no ven el sol;
Jun - to_al pa - la - cio de már - mol, ca - sas de la - ta_y car - tón;
Por e - so_al cie - lo cla - ma - mos des - de nues - tra con - fu - sión:
y_en mí no_ha - brá más ba - rre - ras, ni sec - tas, ni di - vi - sión:
Lim - pia, Je - sús, a tu_i - gle - sia de to - da su co - rrup - ción;



mu - je - res ven - dien-do_el cuer-po en su de - ses - pe - ra - ción.
en vez de_a - mor en las ca - lles, vio - len - cia, o - dio,y ren - cor.
"Ven-ga_a no - so - tros tu rei - no, bri - lle_en la tie - rra tu sol".
he ve - ni - do_a_ha - cer - les u - no en la ver - dad y_el a - mor".
y se re - nue - ve la tie - rra por tu pre - sen - cia_y tu_a - mor.

17

S
A
T
B

Tu vo - lun - tad se_ha - ga pron - to, Se - ñor;

21

S
A
T
B

ven - ga_a no - so - tros tu rei - no de a - mor.

Text: Federico Pagura (1961), © 1961

Music: Pablo Sosa, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc. Arr.: Marcell Silva Steuernagel.

Confession: “We Have Forgotten...”

We have forgotten who we are. We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the Earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life. We have sought our own security. We have exploited for our own ends. We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren, and the waters are poisoned, and the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying, and the creatures are disappearing, and humans are despairing. **We have forgotten who we are.**

We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. **We have forgotten who we are.**

To bring a new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

We have forgotten who we are.

To renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

We have forgotten who we are.

To celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

We have forgotten who we are.

To recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, to remember our children.

We have forgotten who we are.

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:

For the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

*From "Only One Earth," a United Nations Environment Programme publication for
"Environmental Sabbath/Earth Rest Day," June 1990.*

"The Garden of the World/Lament for the Earth"

Singing Instructions

Congregational response, interspersed with the "Litany of Sorrow." Unison, with instrumental pedal texture.

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "The gar - den of the world, the par - a - dise we share, the green - ing of all life is dy - ing in our care." The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a measure rest (marked with a '3' above it) followed by the continuation of the melody.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, © 2015 Hope Publishing Company

Music: CARTERET ISLANDS, Lim Swee Hong, © 2015 Hope Publishing Company

"Pelas Dores/For the Troubles and the Sufferings"

Singing Instructions

Verse 1 (Portuguese): leader

Verse 2 (English): leader + congregation,
choir SATB (might repeat second half).



Portuguese	1. Pe - las do - res des - te mun - do, ó Se - nhor, im - plo -
	2. Teus ou - vi - dos se in - cli - nem ao cla - mor des - ta
Spanish	1. Im - plo - ra - mos tu pie - dad, oh buen Se - ñor, por quien
	2. Tus o - í - dos se in - cli - nen al cla - mor de tu
English	1. For the trou - bles and the suf - f'rings of the world, God, we
	2. Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help from op -



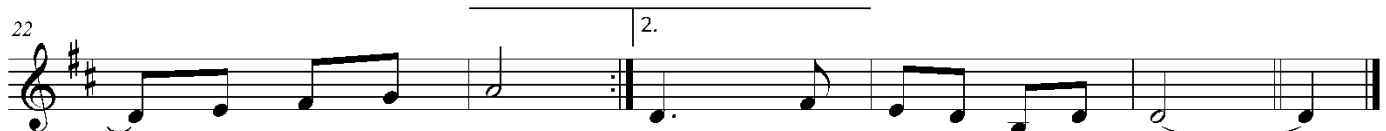
ra - mos pi - e - da - de.	A um só tem - po ge - me_a cri - a -
gen - te o - pri - mi - da.	A - pres - sa - te com tu - a sal - va -
su - fre_en es - te mun - do,	a u - na gi - me to - da la crea -
gen - te o - pri - mi - da,	a - pu - ra, oh Se - ñor, tu sal - va -
call up - on your mer - cy;	the whole cre - a - tion's la - bo - ring in
pressed an hope - less peo - ple.	Come! Has - ten your sal - va - tion, heal - ing



ção. - - - - -	ção!	A tu - a paz,	ben - di - ta_e ir - ma -
		O teu po - der	sus - ten - te_o tes - te -
ción. - - - - -	ción!	Se - a tu paz,	ben - di - ta_y her - ma -
- - - - -	-	Que tu po - der	sus - ten - te_el tes - ti -
pain! - - - - -	love!	We pray for peace,	the bless - ed peace that
		We pray for pow'r,	the pow'r that will sus -



na - da com_a jus - ti - ça,	a - bra - ce_o mun - do_in - tei - ro.
mu - nho do teu po - vo.	Teu rei - no ve - nha_a
na - da_a la jus - ti - cia,	que_a - bra - ze_al mun - do_en - te - ro:
mo - nio de tu pue - blo;	tu Rei - no ven - ga
comes from mak - ing jus - tice,	to cov - er and em - brace us.
tain your peo - ple's wit - ness	un - til your king - dom



Tem com - pai - xão!	nós!	Ky - ri - ele - le - i - son!
¡ten com - pa - sión!	hoy,	¡Ky - ri - ele - le - i - son!
Have mer - cy, Lord!	comes,	Ky - ri - ele - le - i - son.

Prayer of confession: “Walk Lightly”

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.

**Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory,
Spirit of love.**

And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendor, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.

And so the ice is cracked, the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snowcaps melt.

**Loving God, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly
with respect and love for all that you have made. Amen.**

Linda Jones and CAFOD, in “Three *livesimply* Prayers,” CAFOD.
<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/livesimply-prayers>

HOPE: INVITED INTO RECREATION

“Semillas de vida/Seeds of Life”

Singing Instructions

Bilingual, for congregational participation

Chorus will be taught first.

Verse 1: leader + choir on chorus.

Verse 2: all + SATB on chorus.



1. When for - ests burn and o - ceans rise, cuan - do la tie - rra cla - ma
2. Y mien-tras gi - me la crea - ción In times of death, in times of



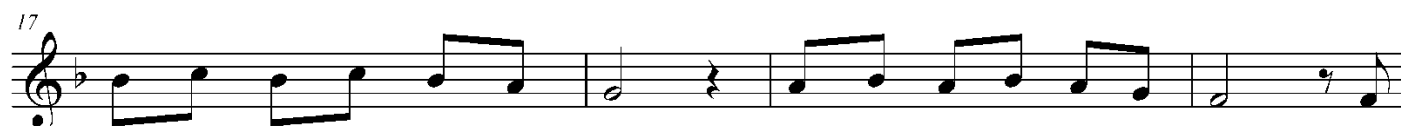
paz we stand with those the storms dis - place, con quie - nes cla-man: "¿dig-ni-
war When all our hopes have come un - done Hay muer-te y i - ra al - re - de -



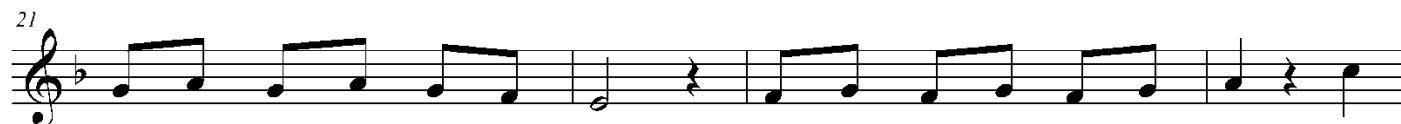
dad!" You move through for-est, field and streets In bro - ken lands, in shat-tered
dor. But still your liv - ing jus - tice flows. Ya so - pla el vien - to: tu bon -



hearts En me-dio al mie - do y la do - lor Re-sue-nan e - cos de tu a - mor
dad! Your kin - dom grows in ev - ery soul, Bai - la - mos, li - bres, tu ver - dad.



Sa - cred Spir it, wind and flame, Fuen te e - ter - na de a - mor: Es -



cu - cha, Dios, nues - tro cla - mor! Give our hearts a new re - frain! Pre -



sen - cia vi - va, a - bra - zo y luz, En - se - ña a tu pue - blo a can - tar! A



song of hope in us in - fuse: Se - mi - llas de tu vo - lun - tad. fuse: Se - mi - llas



de tu vo - lun - tad.

Text: Gerardo Oberman and Marcell Silva Steuernagel (2026). Used by permission.

Music: Horacio Vivares and Marcell Silva Steuernagel (2026). Arr.: Marcell Silva Steuernagel. Used by permission.

"I AM Your Mother"

Singing Instructions

Verse 1: leader + band

Verse 2: choir + congregation SATB

Verse 3: leader + choir

Verse 4: congregation

1. I am your moth-er, do not ne-glect me! Chil-dren pro-tect me, I need your

trust, my breath is your breath, my death is

your death, ash - es to ash-es, dust in - to dust.

2. I am your nur-ture, do not des-try me! Love and en - joy me, sa-vor my

fruit, my good is your good, my food is

your food, wa - ter and flo-er, bran-ches and root.

molto rall.

a tempo

The musical score is written for SATB voices. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The first system (measures 1-6) is for the leader and band. The second system (measures 7-10) continues the melody. The third system (measures 11-16) continues the melody. The fourth system (measures 17-22) is for the SATB choir, with the Soprano and Alto parts in the upper staves and the Tenor and Bass parts in the lower staves. The fifth system (measures 23-26) continues the SATB choir parts, with a *molto rall.* marking. The sixth system (measures 27-30) continues the SATB choir parts, with an *a tempo* marking.

33

3. I am your lodg-ing, do not a - buse me! Ten - der - ly

38

use me, soothing my scars, my health is your health, my wealth is

43

your wealth, shin-ing with pro-mise, set a-mong stars.

50

4. God is our mak-er, do not de - ny God chal - lenge, de -

55

fy God, threat-en this place. Life is to cher - ish! Care or we

60

per - ish, I am your Mo-ther, tears on my face.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music: Mark Miller, © 2015 Chorister's Guild. Arr: Marcell Silva Steuernagel.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104:24-30²

"Rejoice in All Your Works"

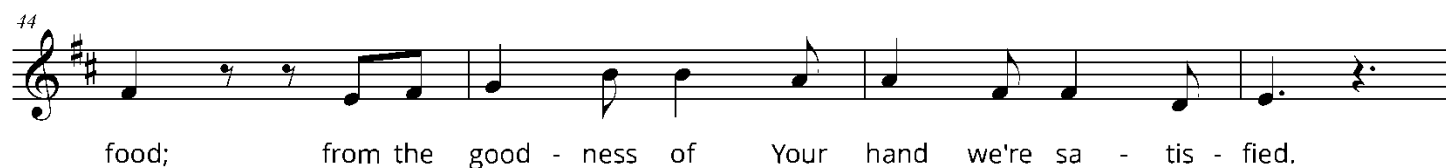
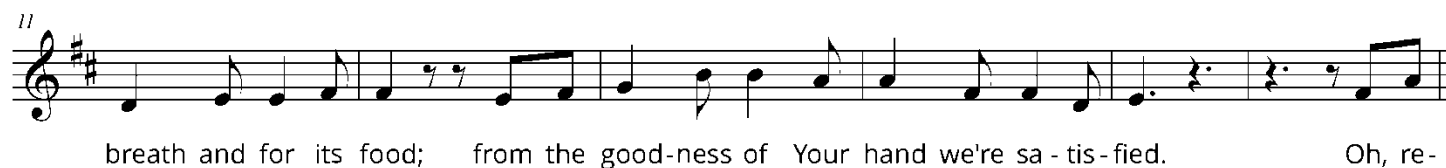
Singing Instructions

Verse 1: leader

Verse 2: leader + choir, unison, SATB on chorus.

Verse 3: congregation, leader, choir. Leader + choir and congregation on SATB for last chorus.

² The Message (1993)



48

S
A

Oh, re - joice in all Your works, King of hea - ven, King of earth! E-very

T
B

53

S
A

crea-ture You have made de-clar- es Your praise. We re-joice in all You've made, God of

T
B

59

S
A

all sus-tai - ning grace; with the moun - tain, sky, and sea we sing Your praise.

T
B

64

3. May the pon - d'rings of my heart and the song u - pon my lips with the

69

cho - rus of cre - a - tion join in praise to the God who made all things, to the

75

Spi - rit who sus - tains, to the Son who o - ver all cre - a - tion reigns.

80

S
A

Oh, re-joyce in all Your works, King of hea-ven, King of earth! E-very crea-ture You have

80

T
B

86

S
A

made de-clares Your praise. We re-joyce in all You've made, God of all sus-tai-ning

86

T
B

92

S
A

grace; with the moun-tain, sky, and sea we sing Your praise.

92

T
B

Words and Music: © Wendell Kimbrough, *Psalms We Sing Together* (2016). CCLI # 7064725
 Arr: Marcell Silva Steuernagel.

"We Are One in Christ"

Singing Instructions

Chorus will be taught.

Verse 1: leader, congregation on chorus in unison.

Verse 2: choir leader, chorus SATB choir.

Verse 3: choir leader, congregation SATB w/ descant.

Verse 4: choir leader, all SATB w/ descant.



1. Heirs of our Cre - at - or God, A - br'ham, Sar - ah, Mic - ah, Ruth,
2. Mod - ern ma - gi seek - ing Christ; search - ing in the book div - ine,
3. Long - ing for the Spir - it's touch, seek - ing guid - ance as we pray,
4. Gath - ered from a - round the world, ma - ny view - points in - ter - sect;



formed by grace and proph - et's truth. This is who we are.
gath' - ring round for bread and wine. This is who we are.
fresh a - noint - ing for our day. This is who we are.
thought and vit - al prayer con - nect. This is who we are.



We are one in Christ, by the One who



We are one in Christ, called and claimed by the One who knows our name;



knows our name; seek - ing, all our days.



seek - ing, wrest - ling, giv - ing praise, serv - ing free - ly all our days.



Litany of Renewal: “For Everything There Is a Season”

For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven.

Therefore, if this is a time to be born, let us emerge from the womb with a cry;
If this is a time to die, let us say farewell with a smile.

If this is a time to plant, let us scatter the seed with a prayer;
If this is a time to harvest, let us reap the grain with a song.

If this is a time to break down, let us topple the walls with a shout.
If this is a time to build up, let us raise the foundation with care.

If this is a time to mourn, let us catch the tears with a chalice;
If this is a time to dance, let us leap the moon with a laugh.

If this is a time to embrace, let us wrap the world with a ribbon;
If this is a time to stand alone, let us face the crowd with a mirror.

If this is a time to remain silent, let us proclaim the truth with a deed;
If this is a time to speak out, let us shout the truth to those in power.

If this is a time to do battle, let us sustain the weak with a vision;
If this is a time to make peace, let us anoint the wounds with a balm.

For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven; O Lord, teach us to know the times!

Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson, in *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary: Year B*
(Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), 177-78. ©2003 Abingdon Press.

BENEDICTION: ONE WITH GOD'S CREATION

"La paz de la tierra/The Peace of the Earth"

Singing Instructions

Chorus will be taught.

Verse + chorus (Spanish): leader.

Verse + chorus (Spanish): leader, congregation, choir.

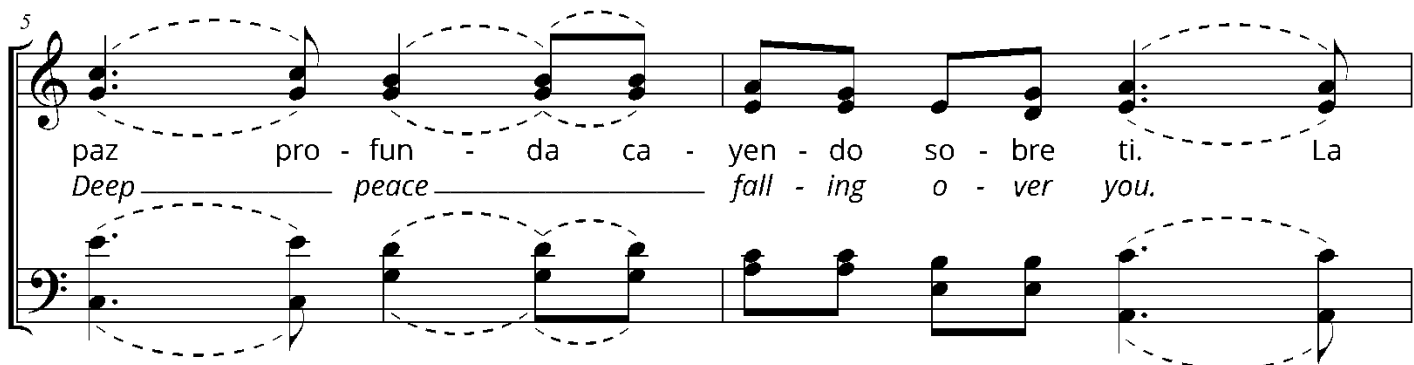
Verse + chorus (English): leader, congregation, choir.



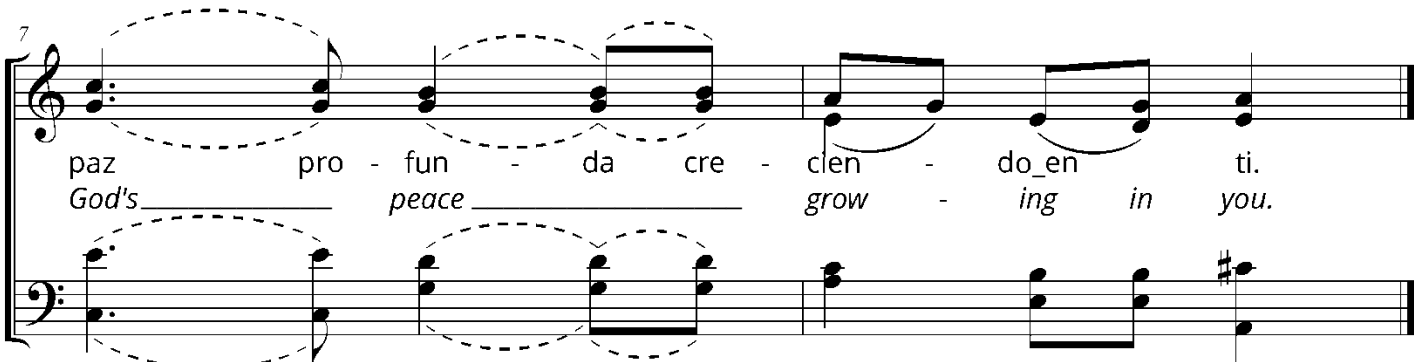
La paz de la tie - rra es - té con - ti - go, la paz de los cie - los tam - bién. La
The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heav - ens too. The



paz de los rí - os es - té con - ti - go, la paz de los ma - res tam - bién. La
peace of the riv - ers be with you, the peace of the o - ceans too.



paz pro - fun - da ca - yen - do so - bre ti. La
Deep _____ peace _____ fall - ing o - ver you.



paz pro - fun - da cre - cien - do en ti.
God's _____ peace _____ grow - ing in you.

Traditional Guatemalan

English by Christine Carson, © 1998, Christine Carson and Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community.

GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Sending Forth