
*Commissioned by Jim Winner
for the Chancel Choir of
St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN, Dr. Jeff Rogers, Director
In Loving Memory of Joyce Winner*

GLENN L. RUDOLPH

WHOSOEVER ON THE NIGHT OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

A Christmas Eve Anthem for SATB Choir and Piano

WHOSOEVER ON THE NIGHT OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

A Hymn for Christmas Eve

Whosoever on the night of Christ's nativity
through the shadows, bears the light of One who sets us free—
Brings a gift for those in sorrow and a word of grace—
Shall in life beyond tomorrow shine like stars ablaze!

Bring a wisp of honeyed hay for steeds on shivering grounds;
Bring a bone with bounteous flavor, for lamenting hounds;
Bring a brace of brushwood kindling, for the drafty hearth;
Bring a joyous song unending, singing peace on earth!

For the birds on branches dreary, bring a dish of crumbs;
Bring red garlands of bright berries, for the tattered ones;
Bring a treat for children famished, bread and blessings blend;
For the ones whose hope has vanished: Come and be a friend!

Whosoever brings a blessing, shall receive as well,
Harmonies of joy unceasing, more than time can tell;
After they are stooped and feeble, when earth's days will cease,
They will walk anew and able in unending peace!

Whosoever on the night of Christ's nativity
Through the shadows, bears the light of One who sets us free—
Brings a gift for those in sorrow and a word of grace—
Shall in life beyond tomorrow shine like stars ablaze!

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This Christmas Eve Hymn was inspired by the following anonymous quotation:

Whosoever on the night of the nativity of the young Lord Jesus, in the great snows, shall fare forth bearing a succulent bone for the lost and lamenting hounds, a wisp of hay for the shivering horse, a cloak of warm raiment for the stranded wayfarer, a bundle of brushwood for the shivering widow, a garland of bright red berries for one who has worn chains, a dish of crumbs with a song of love for all huddled birds who thought that song was dead, and various lavish delicacies for such children's faces that peer from lonely windows, to them shall be offered and returned gifts of such an astonishment as will rival the hues of the peacock and the harmonies of heaven; so that though they live to the great age when they go stooping and querulous because of the nothing that is left of them, yet shall they walk upright and remembering, as those whose hearts shine like blazing stars, in their chest.

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WHOSOEVER ON THE NIGHT OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

John A Dalles

Glenn L. Rudolph

mp *See note

Solo

mp *See note

Who-so -

mp Sweetly

Piano

mp

Pedal freely

5

ev - er on the night of Christ's na-tiv-i - ty through the shad - ows, bears the

5

10

light of One who sets us free— Brings a gift for those in sor - row

10

* Soloist should approach the opening and ending as a song, in a relaxed manner with moderate rhythmic freedom.

15

and a word of grace— Shall in life be-yond to-mor-row shine like stars a-

15

rit.

20

a tempo

blaze!

a tempo

mp

Tenor & Bass

Bring a wisp of hon-eyed

20

a tempo

mp

25

hay for steeds on shiv'-ring grounds; Bring a bone with boun-teous fla-vor

25

rit.

30

for la-ment - ing hounds; Bring a brace of brush-wood kind-ling for the draft-y

35

hearth, Bring a joy - ous song un - end - ing sing-ing peace on earth!

rit. *a tempo*

41

Soprano & Alto *mp*

For the birds on branch-es drear - y, bring a dish of

mp
like a child's music box

No pedal

Whosoever on the Night of Christ's Nativity

46

crumbs; Bring red gar - lands of bright ber - ries for the tat - tered ones; Bring a

51

treat for child-ren fam - ished, bread and bles-sings blend; — For the ones whose hope has

56

rit. *a tempo*

van - ished: Come and be a friend!

mp

rit. *a tempo*

Pedal freely

61 *rit.* **Soprano & Alto** *mf* with rubato ♩ = 68

Tenor & Bass *mf* Who-so - ev - er brings a bless - ing

66

shall re - ceive as well, — Har - mo - nies of joy un - ceas - ing, — more than time can

71

tell; — Af - ter they — are stooped and fee - ble, when earth's days will cease, — They will

Whosoever on the Night of Christ's Nativity

76 *rit.* ♩ = 76

walk a - new and a - ble in un - end - ing peace!

mf

Pedal freely

81 *rit.* ♩ = 76

cresc. *f*

86 *f*

Who - so - ev - er on the night of Christ's na - tiv - i - ty through the

f

91

shad - ows, bears the light of One who sets us free— Brings a gift for those in

91

96

sor - row and a word of grace— Shall in life be - yond to - mor - row

96

101 *rit.* *mp* *Solo* ♩ = 68

shine like stars a - blaze! (stars a - blaze!) Shall in life be-yond to - mor - row

shine like stars a - blaze, (stars a - blaze!)

106 *dim. al niente* *rit.*

shine like stars a - blaze!

106 *p* *rit.*

Duration: ~ 4:45
Cranberry Township, PA
September 14, 2020