

Anthem Notes for April 16, 2017

This Joyful Eastertide

Vruechten, 17th Century Dutch

Arr. Jeremy J. Bankson

Found in *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1685

text: George Woodward (1848-1934)

*This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now has Christ arisen.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now has Christ arisen.*

*Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now has Christ arisen.*

The poetic, hymn-setting of an anonymous Dutch text by the Anglican priest-musician-hymn writer, George R. Woodward (1848-1934), and the music from *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1685, to which Woodward joined it, has created a joyful, powerful Easter hymn. The text is one of great hope and assurance, based on our Lord's redeeming resurrection—our cornerstone of faith.

The tune is a Dutch folk melody which has been arranged as a hymn by Woodward's collaborator Charles Wood (1866-1926). It is easily singable and very well suited to the Easter text. The hymn can be found in the green hymnal on page 308 with a somewhat altered text.

The anthem begins with a festive flourish of organ pedal and fanfares joined by brass and timpani. The congregation and choir sing the first stanza in unison. The choir sings the second stanza unaccompanied, in an elaboration on the text. This is followed by an interlude that leads into a triumphant third stanza for choir, congregation, brass, organ and soprano descant (a separate

Anthem Notes for April 16, 2017

Page 2

counter melody) singing the text beginning with the words “Death’s flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.” This is a metaphor for entering heaven based upon the Old Testament account of the Jews crossing the river Jordan into the Promised Land.

Notice that the musical line of the hymn rises on the text “arisen,” not once or twice, but three times, focusing on the importance of “arisen” and using a compositional technique called text painting. The line then descends with an embellished melody, resolving confidently on the fourth and final “arisen.” The overall effect is majestic and a wonderful affirmation of the Resurrection!

Hymnist Woodward, influential in the enrichment of English hymnody, was editor of *Songs of Syon* (1904) and several other English hymn and carol collections. Many of his hymns, both original and translated from ancient authors were written to fit traditional melodies, mainly from the Renaissance. He sometimes harmonized these melodies himself, but usually left this to his frequent collaborator, composer Charles Wood.



G. R. Woodward



J. Bankson

Arranger Jeremy Bankson is an active church musician and organist, serving the First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Active as a composer/arranger, he has led workshops, clinics and hymn festivals for several denominations and the American Guild of Organists. His compositions can be found in the catalogs of several respected music publishers.

A warm welcome is extended to our guest musicians whose music has aided in creating a joyful Easter morning. They are Byron Yount, trumpet; Alex Pesqueira, trumpet; Kelsey Anthon, horn; Willie Aaron Rice, trombone; John Collins, trombone; Laura Marsh, timpani.

The congregation is invited to join with the choir in singing the first and third verses of the anthem (see music insert).

