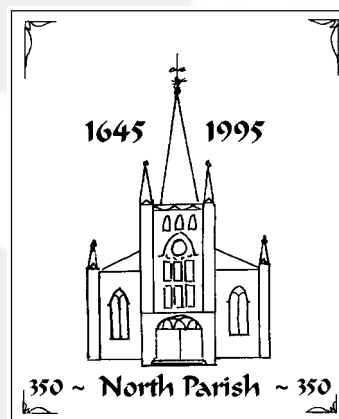


TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

*A commissioned choral work in honor of the 350th anniversary celebration
of the **North Parish Church** of North Andover, MA*

Words by Rev. David Blanchard
Music by Matt Johnson



www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

DOLCE
& NUIT
PRODUCTIONS

Funding for this project courtesy of the Creighton E. Gatchell, Jr. Memorial Music Fund



COMPOSER'S NOTES

- *This original piece was commissioned by the North Parish of North Andover to help celebrate their 350th anniversary. The words were provided by the minister of the church, Rev. David Blanchard...a good friend.*
- *The work is approximately 3:50 minutes in length (for the 350th!) and written for accompanied SATB Chorale.*
- *While creating the piece, I made several decisions:*
 - *The overall feeling of the work should be **joyous**.*
 - *Since the lyrics tell of the beginning of the North Parish, I created a 'frontier' type recurring motif.*
 - *The verses lent themselves to be 'through-composed' instead of 'strophic'.*
 - *To help emphasize the story being told (the history of North Parish), I tried to utilize a slower melodic rhythm and support it with a faster, more energetic accompaniment.*
 - *Regarding vocal pitch ranges: I intentionally kept the soprano part in the lower register until the end. The alto and tenor parts are not too high for either part while the bass part has some nice low notes.*
- *Overall, I consider this work to be very melodic while incorporating contemporary harmonies. After an initial solemn statement of the main lyrical motif, the robust frontier musical motif is introduced and then used as the 'glue' between each of the through-composed verses. The extended Coda section is contrapuntal in nature, finally reuniting harmonically for the ending.*
- *The premiere performance of this work took place November 4, 1995 at a celebratory concert at the church.*
- *The engraving of this work was done by the composer.*

Namaste,

Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Copyright © 1995 Dolce & Nuit Productions (ASCAP). Worldwide Rights Reserved.

TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

Words by Rev. David Blanchard
Music by Matt Johnson

We firm again the ancient vow to serve the living God.

**We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before...
to serve the living God.**

Give thought to this our church, our church whose birth three centuries ago called forth a faithful few who sought to serve the living God.

**We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before...
to serve the living God.**

Those faithful founders they built their Eden in a strange forbidden forest, a new and wondrous land, to strive as best they could, to worship as they would and still they served the living God.

**We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before...
to serve the living God.**

Through these centuries has it served. Inspired by earnest heart and reasoned mind, we carry on the trust of those who've gone before. We too have sought the way of truth and served as best we could, we've served the living God, we serve the living God.

**We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before...
to serve the living God. (repeat)**

We reaffirm the ancient vow to serve the living God. (repeat)

**We reaffirm the ancient vow of those who've gone before to serve
the living God.**

TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Words by Rev. David Blanchard

Music by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

$\text{♩} = 54$

f unison

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

We firm a - gain the an - cient vow _____ to

f unison

$\text{♩} = 54$ *mf*

Ab Ab/G Fm Fm/Eb

with pedal

ritard. $\text{♩} = 69$

3

serve the liv - ing God _____

ritard. $\text{♩} = 69$

3 Db Gsus7 G7 C F

6 *mf* unison

We

6 C F

8

firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

8 C

10

- fore *mf* to unison serve the liv - ing

10 Am F G7

12

God.

C F

14

16

mf

Give thought to this our

mf unison

16

C G/B

mf

2 4

24

called forth a faith - ful

24 C G/B

4

26

few who sought to

26 Am G F F/G

28

serve the liv - - - - - ing

28 AbMaj7 DbMaj7

1 2 1 4

30 *f*

God.

30 C *f* F

32 *mf* We

mf unison

32 C *decresc.* F

34

firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

34 C *mf*

36 *mf*

- fore to serve the liv - ing

36 Am F G7

38 *unison*

God.

38 C F

40

40 C Fm

42 *f*

f Those faith - - - ful

42 Cm Bb/D

f

44

four - - - ders

44 Eb/sus Eb

5 4 3

4

46

they built their

46 Cm Eb/Bb Eb/G

48

E - - - - den in a

48

F

50

strange for - - - bid - - - - den

50

A \flat

E \flat /G

B \flat 7/F

52

for - - - - est, a

52

E \flat

B \flat /F

54

Vocal line: *new and won - - - drous*

Piano accompaniment: Treble and bass clefs with chords and moving lines.

54

Chords: *G \flat* , *D \flat Maj/F*, *E \flat m*

Measure 54: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

Measure 55: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

56

Vocal line: *land, to*

Piano accompaniment: Treble and bass clefs with chords and moving lines.

Dynamic: *mp*

56

Chords: *D \flat* , *A \flat /E \flat*

Measure 56: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

Measure 57: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

Dynamic: *decresc.*

58

Vocal line: *strive as best they could, to*

Piano accompaniment: Treble and bass clefs with chords and moving lines.

58

Chords: *E*, *A \flat /E \flat*

Measure 58: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

Measure 59: Treble clef with chords and bass clef with moving line.

Dynamic: *mp*

60

wor - - - - ship as they would and

Detailed description: This system shows the vocal line for measures 60 and 61. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of long notes with ties. The lyrics are "wor - - - - ship as they would and".

60 E Ab/Eb

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 60 and 61. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes. The left hand has a bass line with quarter notes and half notes. Chords E and Ab/Eb are indicated above the staff.

62 *cresc.*

still they served the liv - ing

Detailed description: This system shows the vocal line for measures 62 and 63. The key signature changes to one sharp (F#). The melody continues with long notes and ties. The lyrics are "still they served the liv - ing". A *cresc.* marking is present above the first measure.

62 Dm7 Gsus7 1 4 G

cresc.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 62 and 63. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes. The left hand has a bass line with quarter notes and half notes. Chords Dm7, Gsus7, and G are indicated above the staff. A *cresc.* marking is present above the first measure.

64 *mf*

God.

Detailed description: This system shows the vocal line for measure 64. The melody consists of a long note with a tie. The lyrics are "God.". A *mf* marking is present above the staff.

64 C F

mf

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measure 64. The right hand has a melodic line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with quarter notes and half notes. Chords C and F are indicated above the staff. A *mf* marking is present above the staff.

66

Soprano *mp*

Tenor *mp* We

66 C F

decresc.

68

firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

68 C

mp

70

cresc.

- fore to serve the liv - ing

cresc.

70 Ab Gm Fm7 Gsus G7

cresc.

72 *mf*

God.

Musical notation for measures 72-73. The vocal line consists of two whole notes with a fermata. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. Chords C and F are indicated above the right-hand staff.

72 *mf*

Musical notation for measures 72-73, piano accompaniment. The right hand has a melody with a fermata on the second measure. The left hand has a consistent eighth-note bass line. Chords C and F are indicated above the staff.

74

Musical notation for measures 74-75. The vocal line is silent. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and melody as in the previous system.

74 *mf*

Musical notation for measures 74-75, piano accompaniment. The right hand melody continues with a fermata. The left hand bass line remains consistent. Chords C and F are indicated above the staff.

76 *f*

Through these cen - tur - ies has it

Musical notation for measures 76-77. The vocal line has lyrics: "Through these cen - tur - ies has it". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a melody with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

76 *f*

Am G/B

Musical notation for measures 76-77, piano accompaniment. The right hand has a melody with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords Am and G/B are indicated above the staff.

78 *mp*

served. In -

mp

78 C G/B

80 *With intensity*

- spired by ear - - - nest heart and

80 *With intensity* *mp*

82 *cresc.* *mf*

rea - - - soned mind, we

cresc. *mf*

82 *AbMaj7* *Eb/G*

84

car - - - - - ry on the trust of

cresc.

84 **Fm** **Fm7/Eb**

mf *cresc.*

86

those who've gone be - fore.

86 **Db**

2

88 *Lyricaly* *mp* unison *cresc.*

We too have

mp unison *cresc.*

88 *Lyricaly* **C** **G/B** 1 5 3

mp *cresc.*

90 *f*

sought the way of

90 *f*

Am G F C/E

92

truth and served

92 Dm C Bb

94 *P subito* *mp* *unison*

as best we could we've

94 *mp*

Am

96 *cresc.* *mf*

served ——— the liv - ing God, we

cresc. *mf*

serve God,

96 E F

cresc.

98 *cresc.* *f*

serve ——— the liv - ing God.

cresc. *f*

98 Gsus7 G7 C F

mf *cresc.* *f*

100

100 C F

102 *Soprano mf*

We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of

102 *decresc. mf* C

104

those who've gone be - fore

Tenor mf to

104 Am

106 *Alto mf*

serve the liv - ing We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

God.

106 F G7 C

Soprano *mf*

- fore We

Bass *mf* to serve the liv - ing

Musical notation for measures 109-110. The Soprano part (treble clef) has a dotted quarter note on 'fore' and a whole note on 'We'. The Bass part (bass clef) has a dotted quarter note on 'to', a quarter note on 'serve', a quarter note on 'the', a quarter note on 'liv', and a quarter note on 'ing'.

109 Am F G7

Piano accompaniment for measures 109-110. The right hand (treble clef) plays a melody of eighth notes. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line with some grace notes. Chords Am, F, and G7 are indicated above the staff.

Soprano

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.

Alto *mf*

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

Tenor *mf*

We

Bass

God.

Musical notation for measures 111-112. Soprano (treble clef) sings 're - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.'. Alto (treble clef) sings 'We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to'. Tenor (bass clef) sings 'We'. Bass (bass clef) sings 'God.'. Dynamics include *mf* for Soprano and Alto.

111 C

mf

Piano accompaniment for measures 111-112. The right hand (treble clef) has a sustained chord in C major. The left hand (bass clef) plays a simple bass line. Dynamics include *mf*.

113

serve the liv - ing God.

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

mf

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

113

C

115

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

115

Am7

117

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.
 serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
 re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
 serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

117 Am7

Am7

119

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing *cresc.*
 serve the liv - ing God. *cresc.* We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
 re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
 serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the

119 F

F

121

God. The an - cient vow of
 serve the liv - - ing God of
 re - - - af - firm the an - cient vow of
 an - cient vow the an - cient vow of

121

F

122

cresc.

f

those who've gone be - fore - - - to

cresc.

f

122

F

Gm

Ab

cresc.

f

124

serve the liv - ing

cresc. *ff*

124

cresc. *ff*

126

God.

ff

126

ff

128

f *ritard.*

TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Words by Rev. David Blanchard

Music by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

CHORAL PARTS

$\text{♩} = 54$

f unison

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

We firm a - gain the an - cient vow ³ to serve the liv - ing *ritard.*

f unison

³

4 $\text{♩} = 69$

mf unison

God _____ We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of

9

those who've gone be - fore to serve the liv - ing God. _____

mf unison

16

mf

Give thought to this our church, our church whose

mf unison

20 *decresc.*

birth three cen - tur - ies a - go

24 *cresc.*

called forth a faith - ful few who sought to serve the liv - ing

30 *f*

God. We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

unison

36 *mf* *unison*

- fore to serve the liv - ing God.

42 *f*

Those faith - ful foun - ders they built their E - den

49

in a strange for - bid - den for - est,

53

a new and won - drous land,

57

mp to strive as best they could, to wor - ship as they would and

62

cresc. still they served the liv - ing *mf* God.

67

Soprano *mp* We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
 Tenor *mp*

70 *cresc.* *mf*

- fore to serve the liv - ing God.

76 *f* *mp*

Through these cen - tur - ies has it served. In -

80 *With intensity* *cresc.* *mf*

- spired by ear - nest heart and rea - soned mind, we

84 *cresc.*

car - ry on the trust of those who've gone be - fore.

88 *Lyrally* *mp* *unison* *cresc.* *f*

We too have sought the way of truth and

93

p subito *mp* *unison* *cresc.*

served as best we could we've served the liv - ing

mp *cresc.*

could serve

97

mf *cresc.* *f* Soprano *mf*

God, we serve the liv - ing God. We

mf *cresc.* *f*

God,

103

firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

105

- fore We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of

to serve the liv - ing God.

Alto *mf*

Tenor *mf*

108

those who've gone be - fore We

Bass *mf* to serve the liv - ing

Soprano *mf*

111

Soprano

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.

Alto

mf

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

Tenor

mf

We

We

Bass

God.

113

We

We

serve the liv - ing God.

serve the liv - ing God.

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

mf

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.

serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

119

cresc.

We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing

serve the liv - ing God. *cresc.* We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to

cresc. re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We

serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the

121

cresc.

God. The an - cient vow of those who've gone be -

cresc. serve the liv - ing God of those who've gone be

cresc. re - af - firm the an - cient vow of those who've gone be

cresc. an - cient vow the an - cient vow of those who've gone be

123

f *cresc.* *ff*

- fore to serve the liv - ing God.

f *cresc.* *ff*