

Christmas Mourning

On Christmas day I weep
Good Friday to rejoice.
I watch the Child asleep.
Does He half-dream the choice
The Man must make and keep?

At Christmastime I sigh
For my Good Friday hope
Outflung the Child's arms lie
To span in their brief scope
The death the Man must die.

Come Christmastide I groan
To hear Good Friday's pealing.
The Man, racked to the bone,
Has made His hurt my healing,
Has made my ache His own.

Slay me, pierced to the core
With Christmas penitence
So I who, new-born, soar
To that Child's innocence,
May wound the Man no more.

Vassar Miller (1924–1998)

to LeAnn, for her faith

Christmas Mourning*

SATB *divisi* with piano or full orchestra**

Vassar Miller (1924–1998)

J.A.C. Redford

Legato espressivo ♩ = 76

* *Christmas Mourning* is excerpted from an extended work entitled *Welcome All Wonders: A Christmas Celebration*.

The complete work may be secured from the composer (www.jacredford.com).

** Full Score and set of parts are available from the publisher (30/2340R):
 2 Fls., Ob-Eng. Hn., 2 Cls., 2 Bsns., 2 Hns., 2 Tpts., 2 Bass Tbns., Tuba (opt.),
 Perc., Harp, Strings

Duration: 6:43

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4
7 S *p*
On Christ - mas day____ I
A *p*
On Christ - mas day____ I
T
B
p

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, measures 4 through 9. It is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano part is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics for the vocal parts are 'On Christ - mas day____ I'. The piano part has a melodic line in the right hand and harmonic support in the left hand. A crescendo hairpin is present in the piano part, leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic.

10
weep____ Good Fri - day to____ re - joice.____ I
weep____ Good Fri - day to____ re - joice.____ I
p

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, measures 10 through 12. It continues the vocal and piano parts from the first system. The lyrics for the vocal parts are 'weep____ Good Fri - day to____ re - joice.____ I'. The piano part continues the accompaniment with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

13 *cresc.*

watch the Child a - sleep. Does He half-dream the

cresc.

watch the Child a - sleep. Does He half-dream the

8

cresc.

16 *mf*

choice the Man must make and keep?

mf

choice the Man must make and keep?

8

mf

19

p

At Christ - mas - time — I sigh — for

p

At Christ - mas - time — I sigh — for

p

At Christ - mas - time — I

p

At Christ - mas - time — I

22

cresc.

my — Good Fri - day hope. — Out - flung — the Child's — arms

cresc.

my — Good Fri - day hope. — Out - flung the Child's arms

sigh, I hope. — Out -

sigh, I hope. — Out -

cresc.

25

lie to span in their brief scope the

lie to span in their brief scope the

cresc. flung the Child's arms span in their brief scope the

cresc. flung Child's arms span in their brief scope the

28

f death the Man must die, *mf* the death the man must

f death the Man must die, *mf* the death the man must

f death the Man must die.

f death the Man must die.

die.

die.

mp

Musical score for measures 31-33. The score is for a vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics "die." in measures 31 and 32. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking in measure 33.

mp

Come Christ - mas - tide I

mp

Come Christ - mas - tide I

mp

Come Christ - mas - tide I

mp

Come Christ - mas - tide I

p

mp

Musical score for measures 34-37. The score is for a vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics "Come Christ - mas - tide I" in measures 34-37. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking in measure 34 and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking in measure 35.