

## **About the Arrangements**

### **Be Thou My Vision**

This great hymn stretches across many generations, serving as a private or corporate prayer of petition for God's sovereign guidance. We acknowledge that He is our best thought and His presence is our light. Without vision we perish (Prov. 29:18)

### **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

The richness of Charles Wesley's hymn links strong theological truths and emotion as we sing these words and commit them to memory. This text can become more meaningful each year, as we ponder the truth it contains. The interludes draw us to the song of the angels as they announce Christ's birth.

### **O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

This prayer hymn continues to find its place in current hymnals. It expresses the heart's cry of those who want their lives to count through faithful service, "In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong."

### **Praise Medley**

**(Praise to the Lord the Almighty / Praise Him! Praise Him!)**

This selection serves as a call to the people of God to praise Him. Along with listing the hymn number in the bulletin, list verses from the Psalms found in this text (Ps. 103:1, 23:6, 91:4, 106:48, 150:6).

The shifts in meter (measures 30 to 48) are not difficult, since the speed of the eighth note remains unchanged. There is a shift of "accent" as you move from three quarter time (1 and 2 and 3 and) to compound duple meter (1 and a 2 and a OR "1" 2 3 "4" 5 6). This shift of meter is found often in early and contemporary music.

### **Rejoice the Lord is King / Shout to the Lord**

The words of Charles Wesley's hymn are a powerful antidote to the fears that prevail in this anxious world. "Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore." We can take heart, for "His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven." Darlene Zschech's response to the assurance that Christ is our "tower of refuge and strength," are expressed in words of aspiration, "Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You."

### **Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**

Originally we intended to arrange the familiar tune, but after considering a new melody that came to mind, we decided to include it, because it better serves the text. After the opening statement, measures 5-20 could be repeated twice, the choir sings stanza 1 and the congregation, stanza 2. After reflecting on stanza three, as the original tune is played, the final stanza could be sung by everyone (see suggested bulletin insert).

*In the service of the Lord,  
Ron and Linda Sprunger*