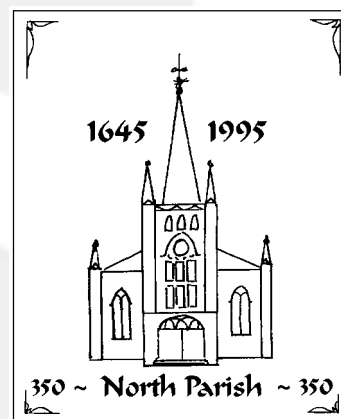


TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

*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

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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)

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$\text{♩} = 54$

f unison

SOPRANO
ALTO

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

TENOR
BASS

f unison

$\text{♩} = 54$ *mf*

Ab Ab/G Fm Fm/Eb

ACCOMP.

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 *mf* to unison

- fore serve the liv - ing

10 Am F G7

12

God.

Detailed description: This system shows measures 12 and 13. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note 'God.' with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a half note in the bass clef and a half note in the treble clef, both with a fermata.

12 C F

Detailed description: This system shows measures 12 and 13 of the piano accompaniment. Measure 12 starts with a C chord and continues with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Measure 13 features an F chord and continues the melodic and bass lines.

14

Detailed description: This system shows measures 14 and 15. The vocal line (treble clef) has whole notes with a long horizontal line underneath, indicating a sustained note.

14 C F

Detailed description: This system shows measures 14 and 15 of the piano accompaniment. Measure 14 starts with a C chord and continues with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Measure 15 features an F chord and continues the melodic and bass lines.

16 *mf*

mf Give thought to this our
mf unison

Detailed description: This system shows measures 16 and 17. The vocal line (treble clef) has chords with lyrics: 'Give thought to this our' in measure 16 and 'unison' in measure 17. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) has chords in the bass clef and chords in the treble clef.

16 C G/B

mf

Detailed description: This system shows measures 16 and 17 of the piano accompaniment. Measure 16 starts with a C chord and continues with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Measure 17 features a G/B chord and continues the melodic and bass lines. There are fingerings '2' and '4' indicated in the bass clef of measure 17.

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

unison

32 C F

decresc.

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

new and won - - - drous

54

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

56

land, to

mp

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

decresc.

58

strive as best they could, to

Chords: E, A \flat /E \flat

mp

60

wor - - - - ship as they would and

60 E Ab/Eb

62 *cresc.*

still they served the liv - ing

62 Dm7 Gsus7 1 4 G

cresc.

64 *mf*

God.

64 C F

mf

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 A^b Gm Fm7 Gsus G7

cresc.

72 *mf*

God.

72 C *mf* F

74

74 C *mf* F 1

76 *f*

Through these cen - tur - ies has it

76 Am *f* G/B 1 2

78 *mp*

served. In -

mp

78 C G/B

80 *With intensity*

- spired by ear - - - nest heart and

80 *With intensity* *mp* 3

82 *cresc.* *mf*

rea - - - soned mind, *mf* we

82 *cresc.* *mf* *mf* *mf* 4

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

82 *AbMaj7* *Eb/G*

84

car - - - - - ry on the trust of

cresc.

cresc.

84 Fm Fm7/Eb

mf

cresc.

86

those who've gone be - fore.

cresc.

86 Db

2

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

We too have

mp unison *cresc.*

88 *Lyricaly* C G/B

mp

cresc.

1 5 3

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,

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 whole note rest in measure 109 and a half note 'We' in measure 110. The Bass part (bass clef) has a whole note rest in measure 109 and a half note 'to' in measure 110, followed by quarter notes 'serve', 'the', 'liv -', and 'ing' in measures 111-114.

109 Am F G7

Piano accompaniment for measures 109-110. Measure 109 has a treble clef with a quarter rest and a bass clef with a half note chord. Measure 110 has a treble clef with a quarter rest and a bass clef with a half note chord. Chords are labeled as Am, F, and G7.

Soprano

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

Alto *mf*

Tenor *mf*

Bass

God.

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

We

Musical notation for measures 111-112. Soprano (treble clef) has a half note 're - af - firm' in measure 111 and a half note 'the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.' in measure 112. Alto (treble clef) has a whole note rest in measure 111 and a half note 'We' in measure 112. Tenor (bass clef) has a whole note rest in measure 111 and a half note 'We' in measure 112. Bass (bass clef) has a whole note rest in measure 111 and a whole note 'God.' in measure 112.

111 C

mf

Piano accompaniment for measures 111-112. Measure 111 has a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass clef with a half note. Measure 112 has a treble clef with a whole note chord and a bass clef with a half note. The chord is labeled as C.

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
cresc.
 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.*

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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

decresc.

24

cresc.

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

cresc.

30

f

God. —————

f *mf* 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 —

f

49

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

53

a new and won - drous land,

57

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

62

still they served the liv - ing God.

67

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

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

could serve

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

God, we serve the liv - ing God. We

God, to serve the liv - ing God.

103

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

105 *Alto mf* *Tenor mf*

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

to serve the liv - ing God.

108 *Soprano mf* *Bass mf*

those who've gone be - fore We

to serve the liv - ing

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

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

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

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

God. The an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
 serve the liv - ing God of those who've gone be
 re - af - firm the an - cient vow of those who've gone be
 an - cient vow the an - cient vow of those who've gone be

- fore to serve the liv - ing God.