

For Darlene Bergman

# Njoo ni majini

## Come to the Waters

Solo Voice and SATB, *a cappella*

English text Mark Sedio

Swahili tr. Mary Catherine Preus

Mark Sedio

**Joyfully** (♩ = 112) %

Solo

Njoo - ni! —  
Come, now! — %

Soprano  
Alto

Njoo - ni — ma - ji - ni ma - ji ya — u - zi - ma  
Come to — the wa - ters, wa - ters of life. — We live re -

Tenor  
Bass

4

kwa ku - fa - na ku - fu - fu - ka —  
freshed, re - newed; by dy - ing with him. — We are

Performance suggestion: Sing measures 2-11 in Swahili; repeat measures 2-11 in English continuing to the end; repeat measures 2-11 in Swahili.

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na Ye - su. —  
With Je - sus. —

pa - mo - ja — na Ye - su. Si - si —  
raised with — him, — Christ Je - sus our Lord. We are healed; —

9

1. *Fine*

na Ye - su. — Njoo - ni  
With Je - sus. — Oh, come. —

1. *Fine*

tu - me - po - na. si - si tu - me - po - na.  
we are made new. — We live with Christ. — Je - sus our Lord.

12

2.

Come! — Come to the wa - ters of life! —

2.

tu - me - po - na.  
Je - sus our Lord.

15

We live re - fished

Come! Come to the wa - ters! Come, come,

18

with Je - sus! Njoo - ni,  
Oh, come.

*D. S. al Fine*

dy - ing and ris - ing with Je - sus the Ho - ly One!

*D. S. al Fine*

Literal translation of the Swahili text:

Come to the waters, the waters of life;  
we live, refreshed;  
by dying and rising together with Jesus,  
we are healed (made whole).

The word used here for “refreshed” literally means “cooled off.” In Africa, when you get well, it’s nearly always a recovery from malaria, which causes a fever. That’s the origin of the connection. (MCP)

Pronunciation guide:

Njoo-ni ma - ji - ni  
njoh-nee\* mah-jee-nee

ma - ji ya u - zi - ma kwa ku - fa na  
mah-jee yah oo-zee-mah kwah koo-fah nah

ku - fu - fu - ka pa - mo - ja na Ye - su.  
koo-foo-foo-kah pah-moh-jah nah yay-soo.

Si - si tu - me - po-na.  
see-see too-meh-poh-nah.

\*the “n” is voiced just prior to “joh”— it should be treated as *one* syllable with no vowel sound whatsoever between the “n” and the “j.”

“J” sounds in Swahili are not as harsh as in English — a bit more horizontal (i.e., as though you’re about to say a soft “ch”).