

A Prayer

(From: A Song, A Prayer, A Voyage)

Text by the composer. (See page 8)

John Biggs

WOMEN

MEN

HORN

PIANO

Slow and sustained ♩ = 72

In concert pitch

molto legato

mf

mf

mf

5

Come we all in praise of life, Rid the earth of

molto legato

mf Come we all in praise of life,

10

hu - man strife, By this deed our

Rid the earth of hu - man strife,

mf

14

souls re - gain, _____ Lest our lives be

By this deed our souls re - gain, _____

mf

mf

(8) 8

18

spent in vain. _____ Pray that all may learn to bend, _____

mf Lest our lives be spent in vain. _____ *mf* Pray that all may

mf

(8) 8

23

War is not the means, nor end. _____ Keep this prayer, and keep it well, _____

learn to bend, _____ War is not the means, nor end. _____ Keep this prayer, and

mf

CP 033 — slowly release pedal — Ped. ad lib. →

29

p May it now with - in you

keep it well, *p* May it now with -

32

dwell.

in you dwell.

legato *f*

(8)

35

ff Wars have come, and wars have gone,

ff Wars have come, and wars have gone,

mf *f* *mf*

ff *sim.*

14

37

Hu - man lives have been with - - -

Hu - man lives have been with - - -

*Lower tenors may join bases through bar 42.

ff *sim.* *mf* *ff* *sim.*

39

drawn, Broth - ers, sis - ters, fath - ers, wives, - - -

drawn, Broth - ers, sis - ters, fath - ers, wives, - - -

mf *ff* *mf* *ff*

3 3 3 14 *sim.*

42

Most in blood have lost their lives.

Most in blood have lost their lives.

f *sub f* *pp*

sim. *f* *ff*

Ped. ad lib.

48 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *f*

We must now as Earth - lings be, Earth - lings, not as

We must now as Earth - lings be, Earth - lings, not as na - tions

mf *f*

rit. *a tempo*

mf *f*

Ped.

54 *ff* *rit. non dim.* *very brief pause* *a tempo* *mp*

na - tions we, Bor - ders, bound - ries do con - found, All in - tent to

we, Bor - ders, bound - ries do con - found, All in - tent to

ff *non dim.* *mp*

ff *rit.* *a tempo*

non dim. *Let ring.* (Keep pedal down.)

61 *molto rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

bring us 'round. Pray that all may learn to bend,

bring us 'round. *mf* Pray that all may

mf

molto rit. *a tempo* *legato*

mf

8 8 8 8 8

66

War is not the means, nor end. Keep this prayer, and learn to bend, War is not the means, nor end.

(8) 8 8 8 8 8

71

keep it well, May it now with - in you
Keep this prayer, and keep it well, May it now with -

p *p* *p*

(8) 8 8

75

rit. molto al fine **morendo**

dwell. With - in you dwell. With - in you dwell. With - in you dwell. With - in you dwell.

rit. molto al fine **morendo**

p

Come we all in praise of life,
Rid the earth of human strife,
By this deed our souls regain,
Lest our lives be spent in vain.

Pray that all may learn to bend,
War is not the means, nor end.
Keep this prayer, and keep it well,
May it now within you dwell.

Wars have come, and wars have gone,
Human lives have been withdrawn,
Brothers, sisters, fathers, wives,
Most in blood have lost their lives.

We must now as Earthlings be,
Earthlings, not as nations, we,
Borders, boundaries do confound,
All intent to bring us 'round.

John Biggs (1932 -)