

# Sing we merrily unto God

BCP

Psalm 81 verses 1-4

?John Chetham (1665-1746)

Edited by Francis Roads

[♩=120]

Soprano  
Sing we mer - ri - ly un - to God our strength:

Tenor [Air]  
Sing we mer - ri - ly un - to God our strength: make a

Bass  
Sing we mer - ri - ly un - to God our strength:

Keyboard

6

S  
make a cheer - ful noise un - to the God of Ja - cob.

T  
cheer - ful noise un - to the God of Ja - cob.

B  
make a cheer - ful noise un - to the God of Ja - cob.

Kbd

A (Alto)

A  
Take the psalm, bring hi - ther the ta - bret and mer - ry harp with the

B  
Take the psalm, bring hi - ther the ta - bret and mer - ry harp with the

Kbd

Sing we merrily unto God

14

S Take the psalm, bring hither the ta - bret and mer - ry harp, and mer - ry harp with the

A lute. and mer - ry harp with the

T Take the psalm, bring hither the ta - bret and mer - ry harp, and mer - ry harp with the

B lute. and mer - ry harp with the

Kbd.

**B**

S lute. Blow up the trum - pet, the

A lute.

T lute. Blow up the trum - pet, the trum -

B lute. Blow up the trum - pet, the trum - pet, the

Kbd.

23

S  
trum - - - - - pet in the new moon:

(Tenor)  
- pet, the trum - - - - - pet in the new moon:

B  
trum - - - - - pet in the new moon:

Kbd.

C (Alto)

A  
E - ven in the time, the time ap - point - ed, and up - on our

(Tenor)  
E - ven in the time, the time ap - point - ed, and up - on our

B  
E - ven in the time, the time ap - point - ed, and up - on our

Kbd.

32

A  
so - lemn, so - lemn so - lemn feast - - - day.

T  
so - lemn, so - - - - - lemn feast - - - day.

B  
so - lemn, so - lemn so - lemn feast - - - day.

Kbd.

Sing we merrily unto God

**D**

S For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra - el, For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra -

A For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra - el, For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra -

T For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra - el, For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra -

B For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra - el, For this was made a sta - tute in Is - ra -

Kbd.

41

S el: And a law of the God of Ja - cob, And a law of the God of Ja - cob. cob. 1. 2.

A el: And a law of the God of Ja - cob, And a law of the God of Ja - cob. cob. 1. 2.

T el: And a law of the God of Ja - cob, And a law of the God of Ja - cob. cob. 1. 2.

B el: And a law of the God of Ja - cob, And a law of the God of Ja - cob. cob. 1. 2.

Kbd.

Sing we merrily unto God

**E**

S  
Glo - ry be to God on high,

A  
Glo - ry be to God on high,

T  
And on earth \_\_\_\_\_ peace \_\_\_\_\_ good-will to - wards

B  
And on earth \_\_\_\_\_ peace \_\_\_\_\_ good-will to - wards

Kbd.

49

S  
Glo - ry be to God, Glo - ry be to God, to God most high,

A  
Glo - ry be to God, Glo - ry be to God on high,

T  
men; Glo - ry be to God, Glo - ry be to God, to God on high,

B  
men; Glo - ry be to God, Glo - ry be to God, on high,

Kbd.

Sing we merrily unto God

52

S  
and on earth peace, peace, good-will to - wards men. men.

A  
and on earth peace, peace, good-will to - wards men. men.

T  
and on earth peace, peace, good-will to - wards men. men.

B  
and on earth peace, peace, good-will to - wards men. men.

Kbd.

S  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - -

A  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - -

T  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - -

B  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - -

Kbd.

## Sing we merrily unto God

62

S  
-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

A  
-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

T  
8  
-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

B  
-jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Kbd.

This anthem was published in John Chetham's *A Book of Psalmody* in 1718. It appeared in six subsequent editions, and in many collections by other compilers, often in revised versions. Its frequent appearance seems to show that compilers at least considered it to be a popular item.

The section between rehearsal letters F and G is marked: "On Christmas Day, this hymn following may be added". Psalm 81 is not a Proper Psalm for Christmas, so it is unclear why Chetham should have thought the anthem particularly likely to be sung then. The Hallelujahs are a late addition, not found

in Chetham's editions. This version of them is taken from Robert Barber's *David's Harp Well Tuned* (1753). Barber gives them in notes double the length of those of this edition, but it seems unlikely that the Hallelujahs were intended to be sung as slowly as such notation implies. There is no new time signature, such as would imply a change of tempo. Barber prefers the form "Allelulia", but the more familiar "Hallelujah" is used here.

Bracketed  $\sharp$ s in bars 12 and 44 are cautionary; those in bars 47 and 52 are conjectural.