

to Dr. Russell Dean upon his retirement after 26 years of ministry,  
First Baptist Church, Clinton, South Carolina

# THIS IS MY WORD

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied\*

Words and Music by  
PEPPER CHOPLIN (ASCAP)

Smoothly ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 63-66$ )

ACCOMP.

10 SOPRANO *mf* (unis.) 11

ALTO

TENOR *mf* (unis.)

BASS

As the snow falls from heav - en as it comes in swirl - ing

*no breath*

*no breath*

\*Full orchestration (with score): LB5515  
CD Track (with demo): MD5028

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14

show - ers from the sky, so is my Word.

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measures 14 and 15. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a handwritten blue arrow pointing from the word 'sky' to the word 'so'. The line ends with a half note G4. The lyrics are 'show - ers from the sky, so is my Word.' with a long horizontal line under 'Word.' indicating a sustained note.

14

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 14 and 15. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on G4. The left hand plays a simple harmonic accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the first measure, and a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the second measure.

18

19

As the rains bring the wa - ter to the earth that is

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measures 18 and 19. The melody starts with a half rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a handwritten blue arrow pointing from the word 'water' to the word 'to'. The line ends with a half note G4. The lyrics are 'As the rains bring the wa - ter to the earth that is' with a long horizontal line under 'is'.

18

19

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 18 and 19. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on G4. The left hand plays a simple harmonic accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the first measure, and a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the second measure.

22

thirs - ty and dry, so is my Word.

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measures 22 and 23. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a handwritten blue arrow pointing from the word 'dry' to the word 'so'. The line ends with a half note G4. The lyrics are 'thirs - ty and dry, so is my Word.' with a long horizontal line under 'Word.'.

22

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 22 and 23. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on G4. The left hand plays a simple harmonic accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the first measure, and a half note G3 and a half note Bb3 in the second measure.

A bit faster (♩ = ca. 69-72)

26 *f* 27

And the Word of my mouth, it shall not re - turn

26 *f* 27

30

emp - ty; it will bless the earth wher - ev - er it is heard.

30

34 *slower mp*

This is my Word.

34 *mf*

*poco rit.* **39** Tempo I

*mf* (unis.)

38

As the rains bring re-new - al and the ten - der buds be -

38

*poco rit.* **39** Tempo I

42

*mf* (unis.)

gin to come a - live, so is my Word.

be - gin to come a - live, so is my Word.

42

46

**47**

Giv - ing seed to the sow - er, and the bread to the

46

**47**

50

hun - gry 'til they thrive, so is my Word,

50

54

so is my Word. And the Word of my

54

58

mouth, it shall not re-turn— emp-ty, it will bless the earth wher-

58

62

ev - er it is heard, this is my Word,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 65. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line begins with a circled melodic phrase. The lyrics "ev - er it is heard, this is my Word," are written below the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

62

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 62 through 65. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time.

66

*lower*

*ff*

this is my Word.

*ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 66 through 69. The vocal line has a handwritten note "lower" above it. The lyrics "this is my Word." are written below. The piano accompaniment features a handwritten "ff" (fortissimo) dynamic marking above the right hand and another "ff" below the left hand. The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time.

66

*ff dim.*

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 66 through 69. The right hand has a handwritten "ff dim." (fortissimo decrescendo) dynamic marking. The left hand has a steady bass line. The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time.

70

*rit.*

(♩ = ♩)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 70 through 73. The vocal line is marked "rit." (ritardando) and has a tempo change to 4/4 time indicated by "(♩ = ♩)". The piano accompaniment also has a tempo change to 4/4 time. The music is in a minor key.

70

*rit.*

*mf*

*mp*

(♩ = ♩)

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 70 through 73. The right hand is marked "rit." and has dynamic markings of "mf" (mezzo-forte) and "mp" (mezzo-piano). The left hand has a steady bass line. The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time.

74 *mp* **75** Slower (♩ = 80)

*mp (unis.)* O Lord, when I am wea - ry, when I

74 **75** Slower (♩ = 80)

78 feel the days I'm liv - ing are in vain, my

78 (Opt. B. Div.)

**82** God, help me be faith-ful to the Word You have giv-en to pro -

*f*

**82**

pro -

86 *mf* *accel.*

claim. *mf* Pro - claim the Word,

claim. Pro - claim the Word, pro - claim the

86 *mf* *accel.*

89 *f* **90** As before ( $\text{♩} = 69 - 72$ )

and you will go out in joy and be

Word you will

89 *f* **90** As before ( $\text{♩} = 69 - 72$ )

92 led forth in peace, and the hills will break be -

92



95 98

fore you in - to song. So be faith - ful, brave, and

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 95 with the lyrics 'fore you in - to song.' and continues to measure 98 with 'So be faith - ful, brave, and'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 95 to 98, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 98. A box containing the number '98' is located at the top right of the system.

95 98

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 95 with the lyrics 'true,' and continues to measure 98 with 'for I will go — be - fore you. And'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 95 to 98, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 98. A box containing the number '98' is located at the top right of the system.

99

true, for I will go — be - fore you. And

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 99 with the lyrics 'true, for I will go — be - fore you. And'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 99 to 102, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 102.

99

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 99 with the lyrics 'true, for I will go — be - fore you. And'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 99 to 102, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 102.

102

when your earth - ly jour - ney here is done,

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 102 with the lyrics 'when your earth - ly jour - ney here is done,'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 102 to 105, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 105.

102

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line starts at measure 102 with the lyrics 'when your earth - ly jour - ney here is done,'. There are handwritten annotations: a large oval around the vocal line from measure 102 to 105, and a smaller oval around the piano accompaniment in measure 105.

105 *mf* *f* (S. div.)

I'll say well done, I'll say well done,

105 *mf* *f*

109 *poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

I'll say well done, well done!

109 (B. div.) *poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo* (loco)

113

113 *mf*

(8vb) (loco)

117

*mp*

121 SOPRANO *rit.*

ALTO

*reflectively mp (unrs.)* **124**

As the snow falls from

*rit.*

125

heav-en and the rain comes in show-ers from the sky,

*molto rit.*

*molto rit.*

129 Slower (♩ = ca. 80) *p*

this is my Word.

T. *p*

B. Word, my Word.

129 Slower (♩ = ca. 80) *p*

*p*

Sub