

Dedicated to Daryl Bichel, Artistic Director, and the Night Song Musicians,  
Jennifer Lester, Director. Premiered on 4 June 2023 at Night Song, First Church Congregational, Cambridge, MA

# PSALM 1

## Happy Are They\*

*Happy are they who delight in your loving-kindness  
and meditate on your compassion.*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season.*

*All that they do shall be filled with the riches of peace and joy.*

Adapted by Patricia Van Ness  
from *The Psalter*,  
*The Book of Common Prayer*

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)  
Score rev. 21 September 2023  
\*from *MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS*,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

♩ = 60 Stagger breathing as needed throughout,  
even within words. Use natural dynamics *mp-mf*.  
*Senza vibrato*.

The musical score is written for six voices: Descant, Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The Descant part consists of five measures of whole rests. The vocal parts begin with the lyrics: "Happy are they who delight, who delight de-light de-light". The Soprano 1 part has a melodic line with a long note on "de-light" and a slur over the final two phrases. The Soprano 2 part has a similar melodic line but with a different phrasing. The Alto part has a simpler melodic line. The Tenor and Bass parts have a single note on "De" followed by a long note on "light" with a slur. The lyrics are: "Happy are they who delight, who delight de-light de-light", "Happy are they who delight, who de-light de-light de-", "Happy are they who-de-light, who de-light, de-", "De - -", and "De - -".

Van Ness, Psalm 1, Happy Are They

2 6

S. 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in your lov-ing kind-ness your lov - ing-kind - ness and\_\_ med -

S. 2  
 -light\_\_\_\_\_ in your lov - ing-kind-ness your lov - ing-kind - ness and\_\_ med -

A.  
 light your lov - ing-kind-ness your love\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_ med -

T.  
 light\_\_\_\_\_ your love\_ kind - ness your\_ love\_\_\_ kind-ness and\_\_\_ (med\_\_

B.  
 light\_\_\_\_\_ your love\_ kind - ness your love kind - ness and (med\_\_

A

11

S. 1  
 - i tate on your com-pas - sion.\_\_\_\_\_ They are like, they are like

S. 2  
 - i tate on your com-pas - sion.\_\_\_\_\_ They are like, they are like

A.  
 -i - tate\_ your com - pas - sion.\_\_\_\_\_ They are like, they are like

T.  
 com - pas - sion.\_\_\_\_\_

B.  
 com - pas - sion.\_\_\_\_\_ Like

Van Ness, Psalm 1, Happy Are They

17

S. 1  
trees \_\_\_\_\_ plant - ed by streams, streams of wa - ter

S. 2  
trees\_\_ trees plant - ed by streams streams of wa - ter\_\_\_\_\_

A.  
trees\_\_ trees plant - ed streams streams of wa - ter

T.  
Trees\_\_ plant - ed streams\_\_\_\_\_ of wa - - ter

B.  
trees\_\_\_\_\_ trees\_\_ plant - ed by streams streams of\_\_ wa - - ter

24

**B**

Des.  
bear - ing

S. 1  
bear - ing fruit fruit in their sea - son\_\_\_\_\_ bear - ing

S. 2  
bear ing fruit fruit\_\_ in their sea - son bear ing fruit

A.  
bear ing fruit fruit in their sea - son bear ing fruit

T.  
bear - ing fruit bear ing fruit in their (sea\_\_\_\_\_ (son\_\_ bear - ing fruit bear ing

B.  
bear fruit fruit in their (sea (un\_\_\_\_\_ bear fruit bear

Van Ness, Psalm 1, Happy Are They



4

29

Des. fruit their sea - son sea - son.

S. 1 fruit in their sea - son sea - son. All that they do shall be

S. 2 bear-ing fruit their sea - son. All that they do shall be

A. bear-ing fruit in their sea - son sea - son.

T. fruit in their sea - son sea - son.

B. fruit in their sea - son sea - son.

35

Des. Filled filled peace peace

S. 1 filled be filled filled with the rich-es the rich - es of peace

S. 2 filled all that they do shall be filled with the rich-es the rich - es of peace

A. All that they do shall be filled with rich-es the rich - es of peace

T. Of the rich - es of peace

B. Of the rich - es of peace

