

OUR GOD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL

Responsorial Song from Psalm 145 for Easter 5C
for Psalmist (Cantor), Assembly & Descant
with Keyboard, Woodwinds & Guitar

TONY BARR

*I will praise your name for ever,
you are my King and God.*

Our God is kind and merciful,
whose anger is but fleeting.
Who shows goodness to all creation,
true and just, as promised.

May all your works rejoice in you
the faithful in thanksgiving.
Let them sing of your Name for ever,
safe in your protection.

And may they sing in endless
praise of your kingdom
your kingdom ever unfolding.
Generations will praise your
name, timeless, yes, because

Once again, the language of the Psalm translates us to a different world. Here we are reflecting on the Monarchy. While many of us originally hailed from a monarchy, which still has monarchs, living in a Republic, the concept does not sit comfortably with us. The issue, however, is not historical but theological. As Israel settled in the lands of Canaan, they observed how the other nations all had monarchs. Furthermore, each regarded their monarch as their God. But in Israel's case, the only monarch, God alone was their Ruler. Who had given them their land (which had previously belonged to someone else)? And their mountain (Zion) which they believed was where God's tent pitched over them? Deities, images, which speak of God's living among them.

To conform to the political structure of the land, Israel needed a visible authority to lead them, and after a series of Judges it was decided to follow the pattern of their neighbors, a most controversial response. The difference, however, was that their King was not the God, and only God, was their King. Our 21st Century understanding of King is a far different from that of the Ruler in the days of the Monarchy. The King was responsible for expansion of the kingdom to expansion into the lands of others; from providing a substantial harvest to the people to the laws and customs of the land.

But in time, Israel decided to establish a system of priesthood, to establish a calendar of sacred events commemorating God's promises to them. This also separated the powers of the King from that of the new sacred caste which conducted legislative and political business but attended to the rites and ceremonies which in the Temple and in which the King was subservient to the Higher Power. This was a ritual relationship, in which language, movement, posture, etc. became expressive of the Covenant in which God and the Nation had entered.

As we move from the metaphorical language in the psalms about God, the Covenant in which we enjoy our relationship with the Divine, the Deity speaks not only of the Otherness of the divine presence but of its unfathomable nature. The Dutch literary poet Huub Oosterhuis sings of the One who is *So Near Yet So Far* [JM 48] in his song which is also known as *Everywhere You* [JM 509]. Our monarch is not a distant, remote and all-powerful

music & text from Psalm 145 © Tony Barr 2001, 2019

graphics & typography by Jabulani

published by Jabulani Music 2001, 2019 (One License)

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JM 630

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INTRO ♩ = ca. 134

music text from Psalm 145 Tony

Chords: F, C, Am, Gm

rit.

REFRAIN

Oboe on selected Refrains

Clarinet on selected Refrains

Descant on selected Refrains

I will praise your name for ever - er,

All

I will praise your name for ever - er,

Chords: F, Gm/F, C, Dm

a.t.

SAMPLE

you are my King and God.

you are my King and God.

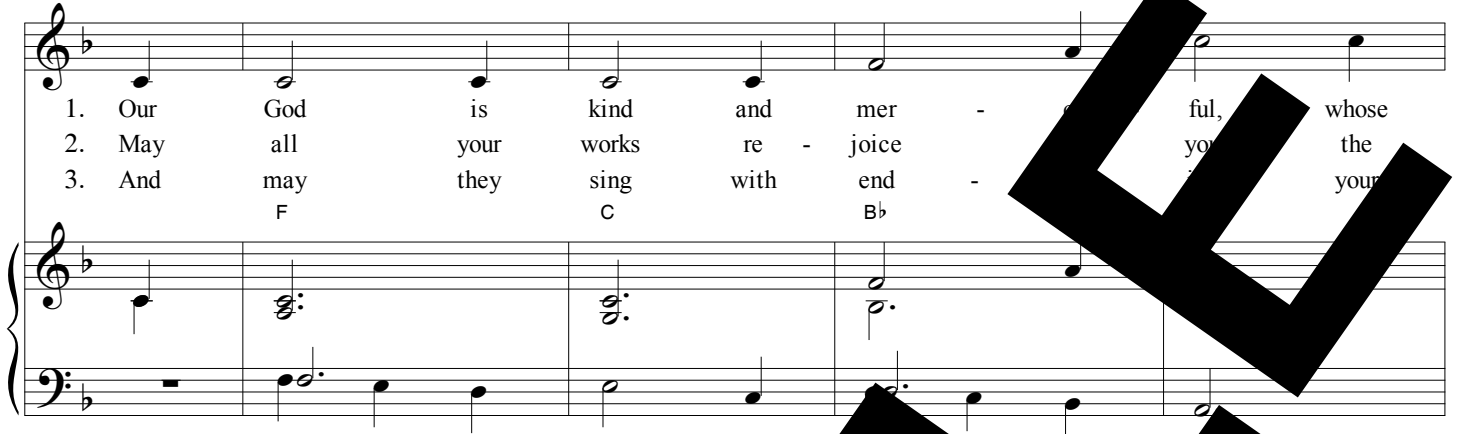
B \flat Gm C B \flat F

SAMPLE

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo*

1. Our God is kind and mer - ful, whose
2. May all your works re - joice you the
3. And may they sing with end - your

F C Bb



1. ang - er is but
2. faith - ful in thanks giv - ing.
3. king - dom now un - fold - ing.

Gm Bb C Bb/C



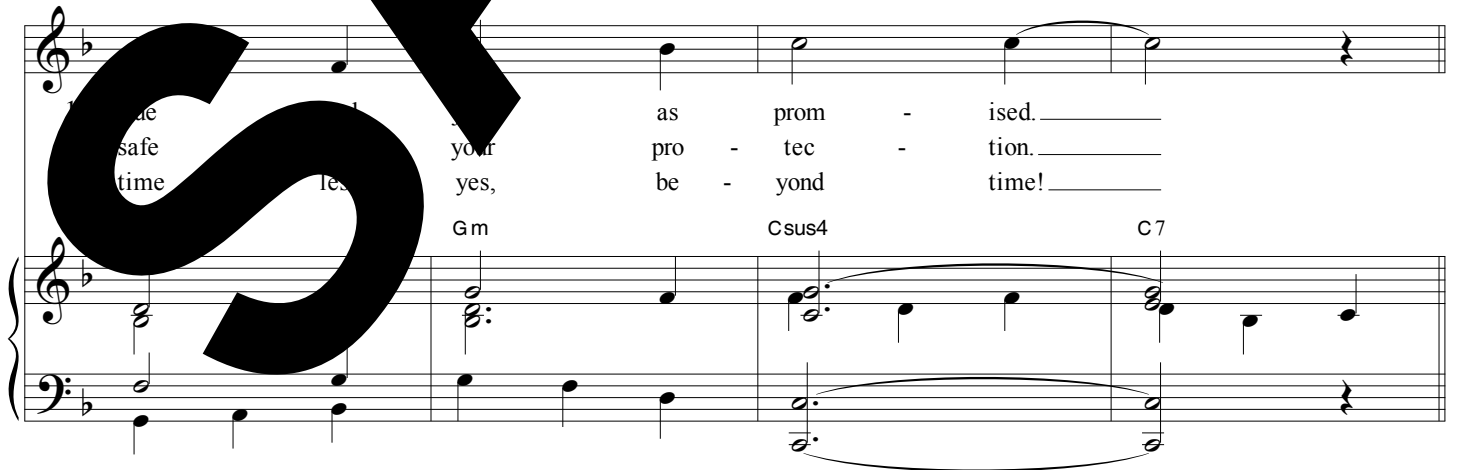
1. Who shows all cre - a - tion,
2. Let them sing of Name for ev - er,
3. Gen - er - a - will know your glo - ry

Dm Bb Gm C F



... as prom - ised.
... safe your pro - tec - tion.
... time les yes, be - yond time!

Gm Csus4 C7



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music from Ps 145 by Tony Barr

Descant on selected Refrains

I will praise your name for ever,
 All I will praise your name for ever,
 you are my King, God.
 you are my King and God.

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo*

1. Our God is kind and merciful, whose
 2. May all hearts praise you, the
 3. And may your end - less joy, your
 1. ang - er is fleet - ing.
 2. faith in you thanks - giv - ing.
 3. king - dom un - fold - ing.
 1. Who shows your kind - ness to all cre - a - tion,
 2. them of your Name for ev - er,
 3. when - a - tions will know your glo - ry
 1. true and just, as prom - ised.
 2. safe your pro - tec - tion.
 3. time, yes, be - yond time!