

Gwyneth Walker

A Sacred Place

for SATB Choir and String Orchestra (or Organ)

Duration: 10' 30"

*Commissioned by First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head Island,
South Carolina, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary (1957-2007)*

*Premiered on November 11, 2007
by the Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Russell Floyd, Music Director*

Program Notes

These are three reflections (songs) which celebrate the place – the church – as a house, as a room, where the spirit rejoices in faith.

"Welcome to the House of the Lord" starts with the outer elements, coming into the church. Welcome light, welcome beauty, welcome wonder. The focus then turns inward, to the personal gifts of healing and comfort. And, as we welcome the many aspects of faith, we realize that, one blessing at a time, we are welcoming God!

"In This Still Room" is a musical setting of the poem by Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier. Although these lyrics are inspired by the Quaker Meetinghouse, the "still room" may also refer to the moments of silent prayer and meditation within any worship service. "I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room."

To celebrate a place, a spirit, a faith, one sings "Alleluia! Amen!"

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Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

Walker's catalog includes over 170 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

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A Sacred Place

for SATB Chorus and Organ

G.W.

Gwyneth Walker

1. Welcome to the House of the Lord

Organ

Slowly, Grandly

$\text{♩} = 80$

7

13

S
A

T
B

A *f*

Wel-come to the House of the Lord.

A

18

S
A Wel - come!_ Wel - come light, wel - come beau - ty, wel - come won - der.____

T
B Wel - come!_ Wel - come light, wel - come beau - ty, wel - come won - der.____

mf

23

S
A Wel come to the House of the Lord.____

T
B Wel come to the House of the Lord.____

f *mf* *f*

Ped. Man. Ped.

28 **B**

S
A glo - ry, wis - dom,

T
B Here there is glo - ry.____ Here there is wis - dom.____ Here there is mys - ter - y,____

mf *mf*

B

Man. Ped.

33

S mys - ter - y, — Ah, Wel - come to the House of the

A mys - ter - y, — Ah, Wel - come to the House of the

T — here is splen - dor. Wel - come to the House of the

B — here is splen - dor. Wel - come to the House of the

unis. p *f* *p* *f* *f* *f*

C

38

S Lord. Wel - come!

A Lord. Wel - come!

T Lord. Wel - come!

B Lord. Wel - come!

unis. *p* *f* *mf*

43

D

S Wel - come, - wel - come. -

A Wel - come, - wel - come.

T Wel - come to the House of the Lord: - wel - come

B Wel - come to the House of the Lord: - wel - come

D

Piano accompaniment for measures 43-47, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

48

S Wel - come, - wel - come. -

A Wel - come, - wel - come.

T peace, wel - come sol - ace, wel - come love. - Wel - come to the

B peace, wel - come sol - ace, wel - come love. - Wel - come to the

Piano accompaniment for measures 48-52, including a *mf* dynamic marking.

53

E

S Wel - come, wel - come. _ Here there is com - fort.

A Wel - come, _ wel - come. Here there is com - fort.

T House of the Lord. _____ *unis.* com - fort, _____

B House of the Lord. _____ com - fort, _____

E

58

cresc. poco a poco

S Here there is heal - ing. Here there is kind - ness, here is

A Here there is heal - ing. Here there is kind - ness, here is

T heal - ing, _____ *cresc. poco a poco* kind - ness, _____ and mer - cy, _____

B heal - ing, _____ *unis. cresc. poco a poco* kind - ness, _____ and mer - cy, _____

63

ritard.

F Slowly

S
mer - cy and for - give - - - ness. Wel - come to the House of the

A
mer - cy and for - give - - - ness. Wel - come to the House of the

T
8 and for - give - - - ness. Wel - come to the House,

B
and for - give - - - - - ness. Wel - come to the House,

ritard.

F Slowly

68

a tempo (♩ = 80)

unis.

S
Lord. Wel - come!_

A
Lord. Wel - come!_

T
8 House of the Lord. Wel - come!_

B
House of the Lord. Wel - come!_

a tempo (♩ = 80)

73 **G** *p*

S Wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, -

A Wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, -

T

B

G *p*

78 **H** *f*

S wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - Wel - come to the

A — wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come, - wel - come. Wel - come to the

T *p* Wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, Wel - come to the

B *p* Wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, wel - come, Wel - come to the

H *f*

H *f*

83

S A *unis.*
House of the Lord. Wel - come! Wel - come

T B
House of the Lord! Wel - come! Wel - come

p *f*

88

S A
light, wel - come beau - ty, wel - come won - der. Wel - come to the

T B
light, wel - come beau - ty, wel - come won - der. Wel - come to the

mf *f*

Man. Ped.

93

S A **I** *mf*
House of the Lord. com - fort,

T B *mf*
House of the Lord. Here there is com - fort. **I**

mf *p* *f* *mf*

Ped. Man.

98

S A

heal - ing, glo - ry,

T B

Here there is heal - ing. — Here there is glo - ry. — Here is wis - dom. —

Ped.

103

S A

Ah, — Here is splen - dor, — and mys - ter - y. Here is Life E -

T B

Ah, and mys - ter - y. Here is Life E -

p *mf* *ritard.* *f* *Slowly, Grandly unis.*

mf *f* *ritard.* *Slowly, Grandly unis.*

108

S A

ter - - - nal! Come to the House of the Lord!

T B

ter - - - nal! Come to the House of the Lord!

p *f*

113

S Wel - come light. Wel - come beau - ty. Wel - come won - der. Wel - come

A Wel - come light. Wel - come beau - ty. Wel - come won - der. Wel - come

T Wel - come light. Wel - come beau - ty. Wel - come won - der. Wel - come *unis.*

B Wel - come light. Wel - come beau - ty. Wel - come won - der. Wel - come

118

S *a tempo* (♩ = 80) *ritard.*
God!

A *a tempo* (♩ = 80) *ritard.*
God!

T *a tempo* (♩ = 80) *ritard.*
God!

B *a tempo* (♩ = 80) *ritard.*
God!

2. In This Still Room

John Greenleaf Whittier

Gwyneth Walker

Organ

With gentle motion ♩ = 108

p

poco accel.

Slightly faster

6

ritard.

A As a recitative

a tempo

p gently

12

S

And so I find it well to come for deep-er rest to this still room, for

A

And so I find it well to come for deep-er rest to this still room, for

T

And so I find it well to come for deep-er rest to this still room, for

B

And so I find it well to come for deep-er rest to this still room, for

A As a recitative

a tempo

17 B

S
A
T
B

deep - er rest to this still room. For here the hab - it

deep - er rest to this still room. For here the hab - it

Ped. * Swell Box

22 mp

S
A
T
B

of the soul feels less the out - er world's con - trol, feels less the ou - ter

of the soul feels less the out - er world's con - trol, feels less the ou - ter

Man. Ped.

26 p

S
A
T
B

world's con - trol. Light of God,

world's con - trol. Light of God

mp

32 C *mp*

S A *mp* more ear - nest - ly our

T B the strength of hu - man pur - pose pleads

C *mp*

36

S A com - mon needs, more ear - nest - ly our com - mon needs, in this still room, in

T B *(mp)* more ear - nest - ly our com - mon needs, in this still room, in

40 *p* D *(p)*

S A this still room. And from this si - lence mul - ti - plied by

T B this still room. And from this si - lence *(p)* mul - ti - plied by

D *p*

Man.

45 *mf*

S
A these still forms on ei - ther side, the world that time and sense have known falls

T
B these still forms on ei - ther side, the world that time and sense have known falls

mp *mf*

Man. + Ped.

49 *ritard.* **E** *a tempo*

S
A off and leaves us God a - lone.

T
B off and leaves us God a - lone.

ritard. **E** *a tempo*

(mf)

Ped.

54 *(mf)*

S
A In this still room, in this still room, in

T
B In this still room, in this still room, in

(mf)

59 *p*

S this still room, in this still room. Light of God!

A this still room, in this still room. Light of God!

T this still room, in this still room. Light of God!

B this still room, in this still room. Light of God!

63 *f* **F**

S Light of God! The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us

A Light of God! The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us

T Light of God! The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us

B Light of God! The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us

mf *f* **F**

68

S God a - lone, falls off and leaves us God a - - lone.

A God a - lone, falls off and leaves us God

T 8 God a - lone, falls off and leaves us God

B God a - lone, falls off and leaves us God

72

S *p*

A *p* I find it well to come, I find it well to come,

T 8 *p* I find it well to come, I find it well to come,

B *p* for deep - er rest, for deep - er

76 *ritardando al fine*

S for deep - er rest to this still
 A I find it well to come for deep - er rest to this still
 T I find it well to come for deep - er rest to this still
 B rest, for deep - er, deep - er rest

ritardando al fine

80 *(rit.)*

S room. *pp*
 A room. *pp*
 T room. *pp*
 B to this still room. *pp*

(rit.)

(p) *pp*

3. Alleluia! Amen!

G. W.

Gwyneth Walker

Quickly, with energy ♩ = 144

Organ

The organ part consists of three staves. The top staff is the treble clef, the middle is the bass clef, and the bottom is a separate bass line. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The first two measures are mostly rests with some block chords. The last two measures feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass line.

5

S

A

T

B

f boisterously, joyfully

Ah, ah, ah,

f boisterously, joyfully

Ah, ah, ah,

A

This system contains the vocal entries and organ accompaniment for measures 5 through 8. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are on the left, and the organ staves are on the right. The vocal parts enter in measure 5 with the syllable 'Ah'. The Tenor and Bass parts have a dynamic marking of *f* boisterously, joyfully. The organ accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass line and block chords in the treble. A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above the organ staff in measure 5 and again in measure 7.

9 *f* boisterously, joyfully

S Ah, ah, ah,

A *f* boisterously, joyfully
Ah, ah, ah,

T al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

B al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

13 **B**

S al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

T al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

B al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

B

17

S Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

T al - le, al - le. Ah, ah, ah,

B al - le, al - le. Ah, ah, ah,

21

S Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

A Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

T al - le, al - le. Ah, ah, ah,

B al - le, al - le. Ah, ah, ah,

25

S al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

A al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

T al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

B al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah, la la la

29

S al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia! La la la la la la la

A al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia! La la la la la la la

T al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia! La la la la la la la

B al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia! La la la la la la la

33 D

S *p*
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

A *p*
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

T *p*
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

B *p*
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

D

37 *p* *f*

S Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A *p* *f*
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

T *p* *f*
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

B *p* *f*
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

f *p* *f*

41 *p* *f* **E**

S Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

T Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

B Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

45 *p* *f*

S Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

A Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

T Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

B Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

F

49

S *p* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! *f* Ah, ah, ah,

A *p* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! *f* Ah, ah, ah,

T *p* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! *f* Ah, ah, la la la

B *p* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! *f* Ah, ah, la la la

F

53

S Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah,

A Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ah, ah,

T al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

B al - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la - la. Ah, ah, ah,

56

S
la la la al - le - lu - ia,

A
la la la al - le - lu - ia,

T
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, *p*

B
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, *p*

60

S
p al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! La la la la la la la

A
p al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! La la la la la la la

T
f al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! La la la la la la la

B
f al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! La la la la la la la

72

poco ritard.

H slightly faster ♩ = 160
gracefully, as a waltz

p gracefully,
as a waltz

S
A
T
B

poco ritard.

H slightly faster ♩ = 160
gracefully, as a waltz

p gracefully,
as a waltz

f
p

78

S
A
T
B

men, ah, a -
men, ah, a -

p
A - - -
p
A - - -

84 I

S *men.*

A *men.*

T *men, ah,*

B *men, ah,*

I

mp

91 J *mp*

S *A - - - - - men,*

A *A - - - - - men,*

T *a - - - - - men.*

B *a - - - - - men.*

J *mf*

97

S ah, a - - - - - men. **K** *mf*

A ah, a - - - - - men. *mf*

T *unis.* Ah, a - - - - - *mf*

B *unis.* Ah, a - - - - - *mf*

K *f*

102

S Ah, - - - - -

A Ah, - - - - -

T - - - - - men. Ah, a - - - - -

B - - - - - men. Ah, a - - - - -

108 **L** *f* *unis.*

S a - - - - - men, a - - - - -

A a - - - - - men, a - - - - -

T 8 - - - - - men, a - - - - - *unis.*

B - - - - - men, a - - - - -

L

114 **M** *mf*

S - - - - - men. A - - - - - men, a - - - - -

A - - - - - men. *mf* A - - - - - men, a - - - - -

T 8 - - - - - men. *mf* A - - - - - men, a - - - - -

B - - - - - men. *mf* *unis.* A - - - - - men, a - - - - -

M

120 *ritard.*
dim. *pp*

S men, a - - - men, a - - - men.

A men, a - - - men, a - - - men.

T men, a - - - men, a - - - men.

B men, a - - - men, a - - - men.

ritard. *pp*

125 **N** *a tempo* (♩ = 144) *f*

S Ah, ah, ah,

A Ah, ah, ah,

T Ah, ah, ah,

B Ah, ah, ah,

N *a tempo* (♩ = 144) *f*

129

S
ah, ah, ah,

A
ah, ah, ah,

T
ah, ah, ah,

B
ah, ah, ah,

133

O

S
p la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la *f*

A
p la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la *f*

T
p la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la *f*

B
p la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la *f*

O

145

S Ah, ah, ah, al - le - lu - ia,

A Ah, ah, ah, al - le - lu - ia,

T Ah, ah, la la la al - le - lu - ia,

B Ah, ah, la la la al - le - lu - ia,

149

S *p* al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

A *p* al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

T *p* al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

B *p* al - le - lu - ia, *f* al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

153 **Q**

S
ia! A - - - men!

A
- ia! A - men! Ah,

T
- ia! A - men! Ah,

B
- ia! A - men! Ah,

156

S
A - - - men! A - - - men! Ah,

A
a - men! Ah, a - men! Ah, A - men!

T
a - men! Ah, a - men! Ah, A - men!

B
a - men! Ah, a - men! Ah, A - men!

159

S A - men! A - men! Ah,

A A - men! A - men! Ah,

T A - men! A - men! Ah,

B A - men! A - men! Ah,

162

S *ff* [^] *unis.*
A - men!

A *ff* [^] *unis.*
A - men!

T *ff* [^] *unis.*
A - men!

B *ff* [^] *unis.*
A - men!