Behold the Joy

Four choral antiphons for Advent

Ephrem Feeley

BEHOLD THE JOY

FOUR CHORAL ANTIPHONS FOR ADVENT

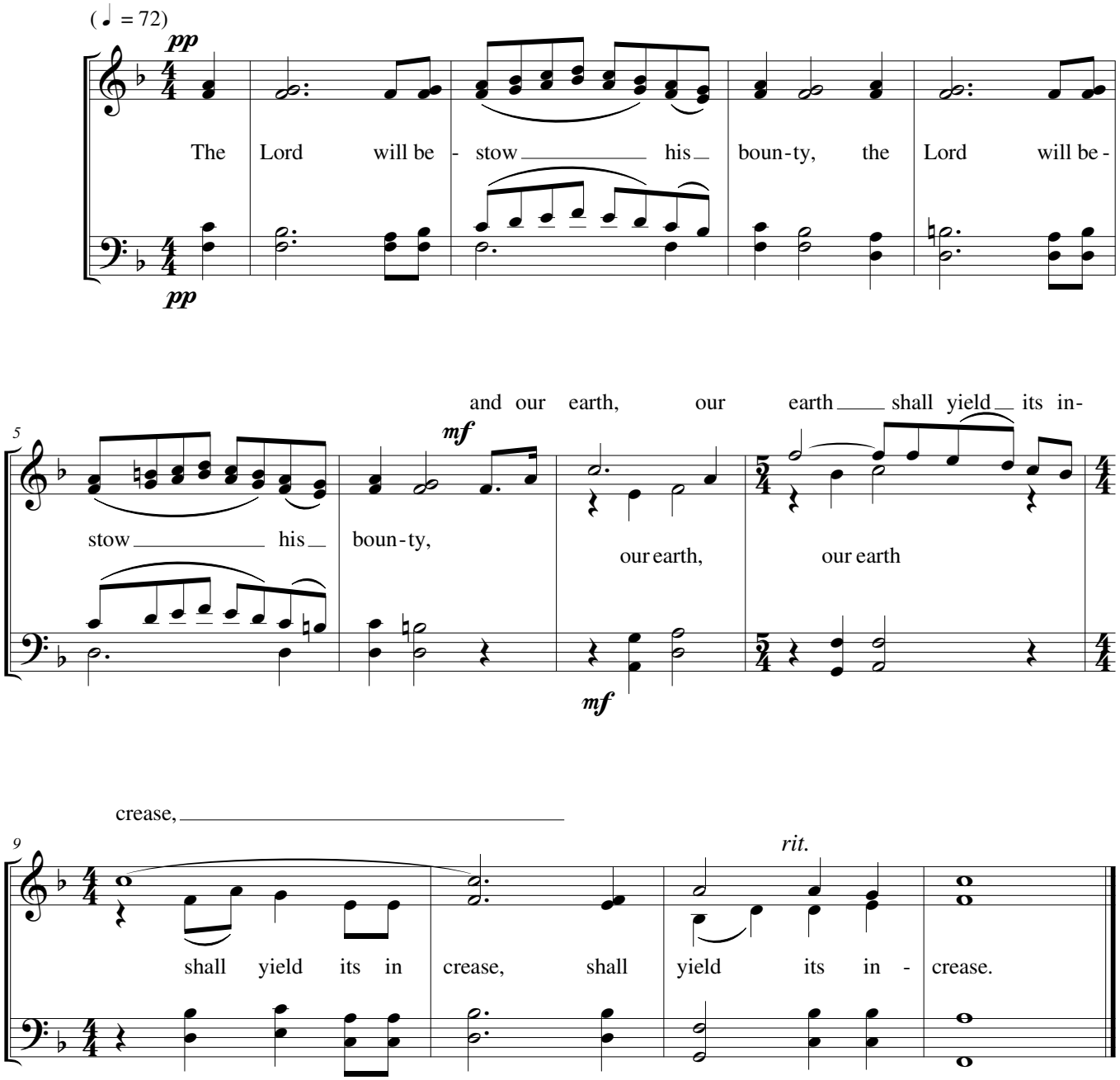
These four antiphons for unaccompanied choir are settings of the Communion Antiphons for the season of Advent. Their pithiness make them useful either as choral preludes, sung while priest and ministers receive before the communion procession with its accompanying hymn begins, or after communion as short reflective pieces. They may also be used in carol services as short interjections between hymns, or perfomed as a set in carol concerts.

The four Advent communion antiphons take us on a journey which explores the the different emphases of the season: the first antiphon, *The Lord will Bestow his Bounty,* captures the eschatological nature of the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time, when God grants bounty and plenty to all creation. The second antiphon, *Jerusalem, Arise*, alludes to John the Baptist's cry of the immanent nature of the Kingdom of God. The third antiphon, *Our God will Come*, scored for full choir and solo voice, captures the growing urgency of the season; and finally, the fourth antiphon, *A Virgin will Conceive*, sums up the joy of salvation that is found in Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-Us.

THE LORD WILL BESTOW HIS BOUNTY

(First Sunday of Advent)

Ephrem Feeley



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JERUSALEM, ARISE

(Second Sunday of Advent)

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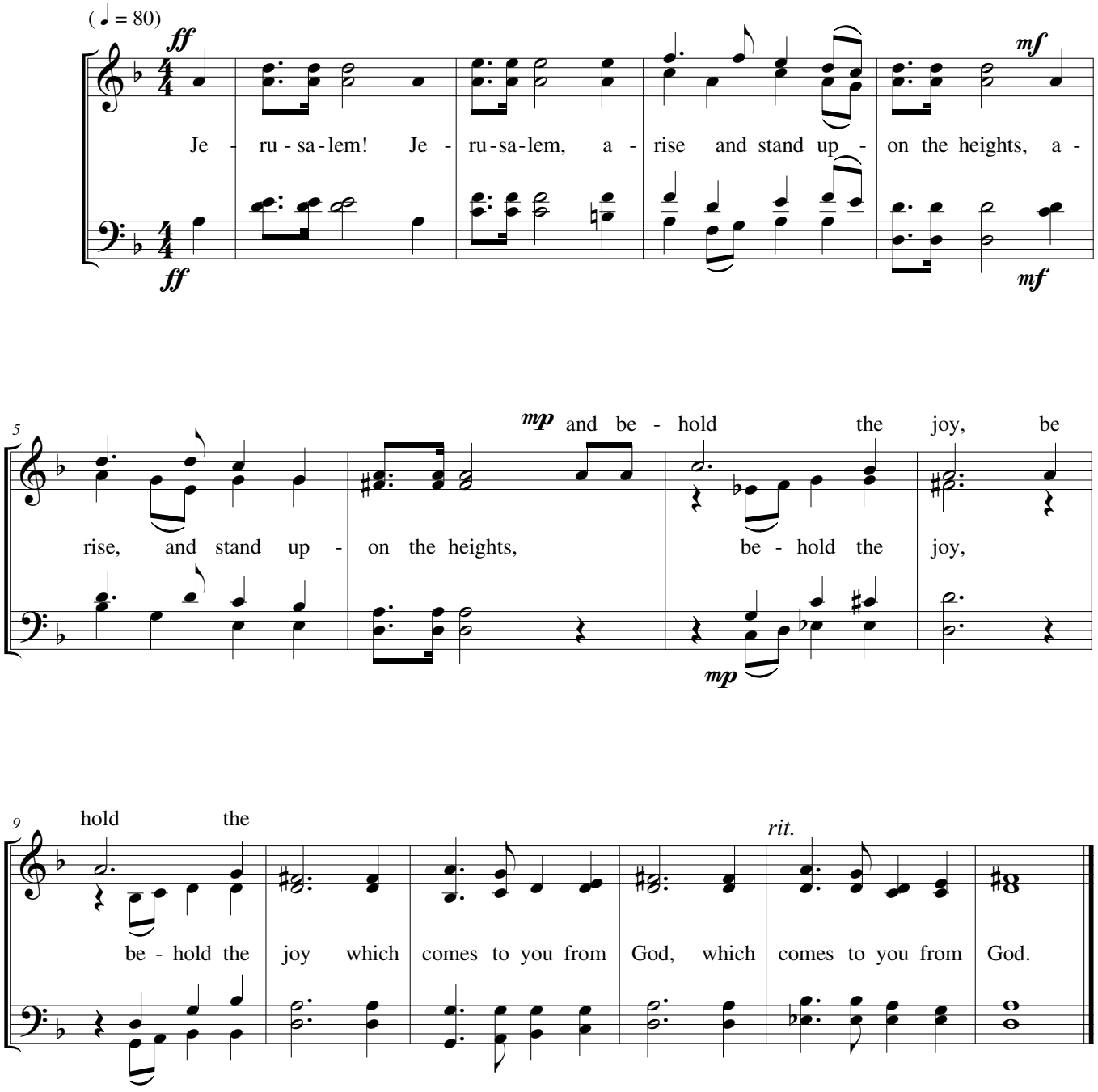

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