PEACE BE WITH YOU

Music and Lyrics by: TREVOR HICKS

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NOTE:

Peace Be With You was composed at a time of tremendous unease in the life of the church. Churches that had been closed for months due to the coronavirus pandemic were now faced with the task of reopening in a world scarred by COVID-19, a world in which the way people govern themselves in public spaces, including divine worship, would need to be significantly altered in order to prevent further spread of the virus.

Different denominations published a variety of documents to their congregations advising on a multitude of new regulations to maintain the safety of all who entered their buildings. The practice of the "Sharing of the Peace" was one particular liturgical element that would need to be either omitted entirely or drastically changed to comply with the physical distancing required for public safety.

With that in mind, Peace Be With You was composed, intended to be used at the time the Peace would normally be shared. Taking into account further recommendations by denominations regarding music in worship (i.e., no congregational singing, no hymnals and choirs or soloists permitted only where extra physical distancing can be followed etc.), Peace Be With You is designed to be presented in divine worship in a variety of ways that suit the needs of individual congregations. Examples include:

- -sung entirely by a soloist
- -refrain sung by one soloist while another sings the verses
- -refrain sung by one soloist while presider sings the verses
- -refrain sung by choir or small group of singers (with or without harmony) while a soloist sings the verses

I think that it is very important to look at the changes to worship in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic not as an inconvenience, but as a time of renewal. It is my sincere hope that Peace Be With You be a part of this renewal, perhaps giving congregants a new way of looking at what it means to share the Peace with one another.

"Peace be with you,
Peace be with you always,
The peace of the Lord be with you."

Trevor Hicks July 2020



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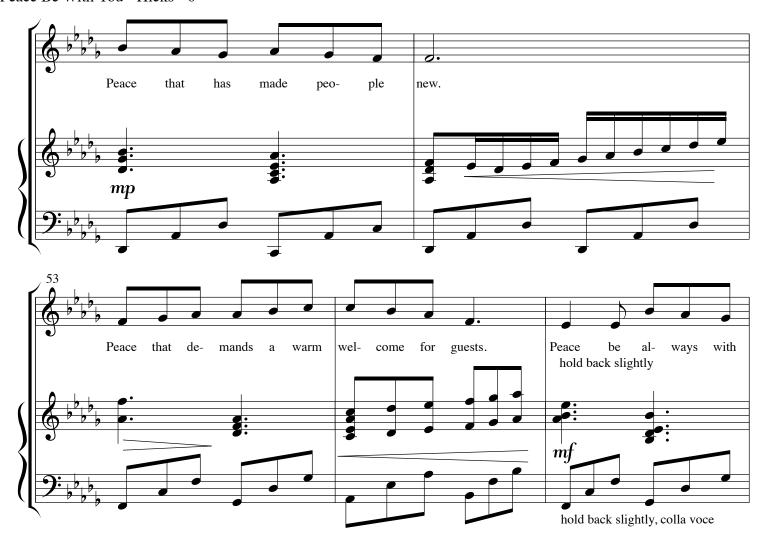
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