

Gwyneth Walker

Love Flows from God

*a cantata for Choir, Treble Voices,
Brass Quintet, Percussion & Organ*

based on the writings of Mechtild of Magdeburg

*Commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, MI
in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary
of the dedication of the Gothic Sanctuary: 1930-2005*

*Premiered by the Choirs of the First Presbyterian Church
Thomas Kasdorf, Music Director
April 24, 2005 – Kalamazoo, MI*

duration: 14 minutes

***Love Flows from God** is a celebratory cantata based on the spiritual writings of Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1280). In the words of the author, "I saw all things in God, and God in all things."*

*The cantata comprises seven sections, each a musical celebration: **energy** ("All Things in God"); **the light of the sun** ("God in All Places"); **the song of the birds** ("God in All Creatures"); **the dance** ("To Leap for Love"); **the rose** ("O Lovely Rose"); **the spark of life** ("Love, Like a Living Spark"); and **God's love** ("Eternal Love").*

As the texts explore diverse imagery, the music moves through a range of tonalities and rhythmic patterns associated with the lyrics. The birds, the dance and the many other manifestations of divine love flow through the musical language. Finally, the traditional hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy..." appears at the conclusion, perhaps as a summation of the sentiments of praise expressed in Mechtild's writings.

*Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty.
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky above.
Guardian of Light. Eternal Love!*

About the Composer

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 150 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral/vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (symphonic/chamber works).

Love Flows from God

1. Introit All Things in God

Gwyneth Walker

Crisply, as a processional ♩ = 72

Trumpets (C) 1 2
F Horn
Trombone
Tuba
Timpani Percussion

(Choir may process down the aisles of the church)

Children
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Crisply, as a processional ♩ = 72

Organ

9 **A**
Tpts. 1 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Tenor Drum
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

9 **A**
Org.

17 **B** ritard.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

(Choir stops near front of church.)

17 **B** ritard.

Org.

25 **C** a tempo ♩ = 72

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Reader: The day of my spiritual awakening
was the day I saw
and knew I saw
all things in God
and God
in all things

25 **C** a tempo ♩ = 72

Org.

28 ritard.

Org. Pause

Reader:
 God says:
 Now is the time to
 tell you where I am
 and where I will be.

2. God in All Places

D freely, unrushed ♩ = 72 ritard. ,

34

Child. * I am
 in Myself
 in all places
 in all things
 as I ever have been
 without beginning

S. *Solo Sop. or Ten. mf*
 God, You are the sun, I am your re-flec-tion. When God shines we must re-flect.

Org. [bright stop]
ritard. ,

* read by various members of the choir in alternation, from their places in the chancel

41 **E** a tempo **poco accel.** **Slightly faster** **ritard.**

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

tutti
p *gently* *mf* *f* *p*

I am in my-self, I am in all pla-ces. I am in all things as I e-ver have been with-out be-gin-ning.

Org.

41 **E** a tempo **poco accel.** **Slightly faster** **ritard.**

(p) *mf* *f* *p*

3. God in All Creatures

48 **Quickly flowing** ♩ = 162 (♩. = 54)

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

repeat 2mm. pattern several times before reading begins

Glock.

p *mf*

Reader: How does God come to us? Like dew on the flowers, _____

*Like dew on the flowers
Like the song of the birds!
Yes, God gives Himself with all creatures wholly to me.

Org.

48 **Quickly flowing** ♩ = 162 (♩. = 54)

[Flute stop] *p* *(p)*

* Members of the choir in alternation (perhaps children)

55 **F**

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbn.
Tuba

Timp.
Perc.

Child.
like the song of the birds! Like dew on the flowers,

S.
p (echo)
Like dew on the

A.

T.

B.

55 **F**

Org.

63 **G** ♩ = ♩ = 162

Tpts. 1
2

Hn.

Tbn.
Tuba

Timp.
Perc.

Child.
like the song of the birds! Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures

S.
flowers, like the song of the birds! Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures

A.
Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures

T.

B.

63 **G** ♩ = ♩ = 162

Org.

72 ritard. **H** Slightly slower ♩ = 60 (♩ = 120)

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

whol - ly to me.
whol - ly to me.
whol - ly to me.

Solo mf cantabile
Love flows from God to hu - mans with - out ef - fort: — As a bird glides thru the air with - out mo - ving its wings—

2 soli p
As a bird glides thru the air with - out mo - ving its wings—

72 ritard. **H** Slightly slower ♩ = 60 (♩ = 120)

Org.

79 ritard. **I** a tempo ♩ = 162 (♩ = 54)

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

(Glock.)
mf
Like dew on the

Solo mf
Thus they go where - e - ver they wish, u - ni - ted in bo - dy and soul, yet sep - arate in form.

Solo mf
Thus they go where - e - ver they wish, u - ni - ted in bo - dy and soul, yet sep - arate in form.

79 R.H. for rehearsal only ritard. **I** a tempo ♩ = 162 (♩ = 54)

Org.

L.H. plays throughout

86

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S. *p (echo)*

A. *p (echo)*

T.

B.

flowers, like the song of the birds!

Like dew on the flowers, like the song of the birds!

Like dew on the flowers, like the song of the birds!

86

Org.

94 ♩ = 96

ritard.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child. *(mf)*

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T.

B. *3 Soli from m. 76 p*

Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.

Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.

Yes, God gives Him - self with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.

Love flows from God.

94 ♩ = 96

ritard.

Org.

4. To Leap for Love

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Reader:</i> | Then, and only then, | And there |
| I cannot dance, O Lord, | will I leap for love. | I will remain |
| unless you lead me. | Then will I soar | and circle for evermore. |
| If you will | from love to knowledge, | |
| that I leap joyfully | from knowledge to fruition | |
| then you must be the first to dance | from fruition to beyond | |
| and to sing! | all human sense. | |

102 **Very quickly, with energy** ♩ = 144

102 **Very quickly, with energy** ♩ = 144

I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less You lead me,

111 **J**

111 **J**

lead me, lead me. then You must be the first to lead me, If You will that I leap joy-ful-ly,

120 K

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc. (Lamb.)

Child

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

dance and to sing!

dance and to sing!

dance and to sing!

129 L

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

I can - not dance, I can - not dance, I can - not dance. _____

I can - not dance, I can - not dance, I can - not dance. _____ Then, and on - ly then, _____ will I

I can - not dance, I can - not dance, I can - not dance. _____ Then, and on - ly then, _____ will I

I can - not dance, I can - not dance, I can - not dance. _____ Then, and on - ly then, _____ will I

I can - not dance, I can - not dance, I can - not dance. _____ Then, and on - ly then, _____ will I

138 ritard. **M** Slightly slower

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S. leap----- for love. Then will I soar from fru -

A. leap----- for love. Then will I soar from know-ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru -

T. leap----- for love. from love to know - ledge, from know-ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru -

B. leap----- for love. from love to know - ledge, from know-ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru -

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

138 ritard. **M** Slightly slower

Org.

p *p*

148 ritard. Slowly **N** accel.

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S. i - tion, to be - yond all hu - man sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver - more.

A. i - tion to be - yond all hu - man sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver - more.

T. i - tion to be - yond all hu - man sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver - more.

B. i - tion to be - yond all hu - man sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver - more.

f *f* *f* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

148 ritard. Slowly **N** accel.

Org.

p *mf* *f* *mf*

(accel.) **O** a tempo ♩ = 144

157

Tpts. 1/2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

(f) can - not dance, O

(f) I can - not dance, O

(f) I can - not dance, O

(f) I can - not dance, O Lord.

unis. (f) I can - not dance, O Lord.

(accel.) **O** a tempo ♩ = 144

157

Org.

(f)

mf

166

Tpts. 1/2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Lord, un - less You lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!

Lord, un - less You lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!

Lord, un - less You lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!

I can - not dance un - less You lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!

I can - not dance un - less You lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!

166

Org.

(f)

5. O Lovely Rose

Reader:

From the very beginning
 God loved us.
 The Holy Trinity
 gave itself
 in the creation of all things
 and made us,
 body and soul,
 in infinite love.
 We were fashioned most nobly.

176

176

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn.
Tuba

Timp.
Perc.

Child. *Reader: God takes such delight in the human person that Divinity sings this song to our soul:*
 O Lovely rose on the thorn! *free tempo* O hovering bee in the honey!

S. *Solo mf cantabile*
 O love-ly rose on the thorn!

A.

T. *Solo mf cantabile*
 O hov-ering bee in the hon-ey!—

B.

Org. *176 free tempo p*

182

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn.
Tuba

Timp.
Perc.

Child. O pure dove in your being! O glorious sun in your setting!

S. *(Solo)*
 O pure— dove in your be—ing!—

A.

T.

B.

Org. *182*

186

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S. O full moon in your course! *(Solo)* *(mf)*
O full moon in your course!

A.

T. *(Solo)*
O glor-ious sun in your set-ting!

B.

Org. 186

191

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S. From you I your God will never turn away. *(Solo)* **ritard.**
A - - - - - A - A - - - men!

A.

T. *(Solo)*
A - - - - - men!

B.

Org. 191 **ritard.**

6. Love, Like a Living Spark

Reader:

What is the greatest kind of love?
Great love
does not flow with tears.
Rather,
it burns in the great Fire of Heaven.

In this Fire
it flows and flows swiftly
yet all the while
it remains in itself
in a very great stillness.

196 straight mute **Quickly** ♩ = 88 or faster

Reader: God says:
My glorious Divinity
flows from hour to hour
into your soul.
When I flow, you must race.

la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,

Thou shalt burn and ne-ver be ex -
Thou shalt burn and ne-ver be ex -

196 **Quickly** ♩ = 88 or faster

202

la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,
la, la, la, la, la,

tin - guished like a liv - ing spark in the great Fire of the liv - ing Ma - jes - ty. Thou shalt
tin - guished like a liv - ing spark in the great Fire of the liv - ing Ma - jes - ty. Thou shalt

202

209

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc. Tom-tom (high) Bongos
Child.
S. *unis.* *subp* *div. subp*
A. *subp*
T.
B.

Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — If one blows on e - ven the ti - niest spark, —
Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — If one blows on e - ven the ti - niest spark, — it gives
burn. — Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — la, la, la, la, la, it gives
burn. — Thou shalt burn. — Thou shalt burn. — la, la, la, la, la, it gives

209

Org. *f* *p*

217

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc. *Susp. Cymb.* *p* *f*
Child.
S. *unis. (p)* *cresc.* *f*
A. *cresc.* *f*
T. *cresc.* *f*
B. *cresc.* *f*

and light in the fire of hea - - - ven where all the
forth both heat and light in the fire of hea - - - ven where all the
forth both heat and light in the fire of hea - - - ven where all the
forth both heat and light in the fire of hea - - - ven where all the

217

Org. *cresc.* *f* *ritard.*

223 (rit.) **P** Slower, triumphantly ♩ = 66 ritard. , a tempo

Tpts. 1 2 open a2 *mf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Hn. open *mf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Tbn. Tuba open *mf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Tom-tom (low) *f* *f* *f* *f*

Timp. Perc. *f* *f* *f* *f*

Child. God says: _____ God says: _____

S. ra-diant saints a-bide. _____ I am in My-self, I am in al-pla-ces. I am in all

A. ra-diant saints a-bide. _____ I am in My-self, I am in al-pla-ces. I am in all

T. ra-diant saints a-bide. _____ I am in My-self, I am in al-pla-ces. I am in all

B. ra-diant saints a-bide. _____ I am in My-self, I am in al-pla-ces. I am in all

223 (rit.) **P** Slower, triumphantly ♩ = 66 ritard. , a tempo

Org. *f* *f* *f* *f*

232 ritard. , a tempo ritard. *attacca*

Tpts. 1 2 *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *f* a2

Hn. *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *f*

Tbn. Tuba *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *f*

Timp. Perc. *f* *f* *f* *f* Timp.

Child. God says: _____

S. things as I e-ver have been. I am with-out be-gin-ning.

A. things as I e-ver have been. I am with-out be-gin-ning.

T. things as I e-ver have been. I am with-out be-gin-ning.

B. things as I e-ver have been. I am with-out be-gin-ning.

232 ritard. , a tempo ritard. *attacca*

Org. *f* *f* *f* *f*

7. Hymn – Eternal Love

Tempo primo ♩ = 72

Q

Tpts. 1 2 *f crisply* *mf*
 Hn. *f crisply* *mf*
 Tbn. Tuba *f crisply* *mf*
 Timp. Perc. *f crisply* *mf* Tenor Drum
 Child. *f in celebration*
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
 S.
 A.
 T.
 B.

Tempo primo ♩ = 72

Q

Org. *f*

248

Tpts. 1 2 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
 Hn. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
 Tbn. Tuba *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
 Timp. Perc. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
 Child. *div.*
 Lord God A - might - y! Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee.
 S.
 A.
 T.
 B.

248

Org.

256 **R**

Tpts. 1 2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

unis.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and Might - y! God in Three Per - sons,

256 **R**

Org.

264 **S**

Tpts. 1 2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

f *mf lightly* *f* *mf lightly* *mf lightly*

f *mf lightly* *f* *mf lightly* *mf lightly*

f *mf lightly* *f* *mf lightly* *mf lightly*

f *mf lightly and joyfully* *f* *mf lightly and joyfully* *f* *mf lightly and joyfully*

bles - sed Tri - ni - ty! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

264 **S**

Org.

V

305

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name. Ho - - - - - ly!

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

p *cresc.* *f*

Tom-tom (high) Tom-tom (low)

305

V

Org.

p *cresc.* *f*

313

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Ho - - - - - ly!

Lord God Al - might - y! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky a -

Lord God Al - might - y! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky a -

Lord God Al - might - y! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky a -

Lord God Al - might - y! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky a -

313

Org.

320

Tpts. 1/2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc. (Tom-toms high, low)

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

a - - - - - bove Ho - - - - - ly! Ho - - - - - ly!

bove. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the world be - fore Thee.

bove. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the world be - fore Thee.

bove. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the world be - fore Thee.

bove. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the world be - fore Thee.

320

328

Tpts. 1/2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Timp. Perc. Susp. Cymb.

Child.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

ritard.

subp cresc.

subp cresc.

subp cresc.

p cresc.

subp - - - - - f

e - ter - nal Love.

subp - - - - -

Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - - - - Love.

subp - - - - -

Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - - - - Love.

subp - - - - -

Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - - - - Love.

subp - - - - -

328

ritard.

subp - - - - - f

336 **W** Slowly poco accel.

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

Guard - ian of Light, e - ter - - - - - nal Love! Love!

336 **W** Slowly poco accel.

Org.

[for rehearsal only]

342 (accel.) Faster ritard.

Tpts. 1/2
Hn.
Tbn. Tuba
Timp. Perc.
Child.
S.
A.
T.
B.

Love! Love! Love! Love! Love!

342 (accel.) Faster ritard.

Org.