for Zion United Church of Christ, Owensboro, Kentucky, with gratitude and affection for nurturing me in the music of faith

## A BACH BENEDICTION

## (For General or Advent/Christmas Worship)

for S.A.B. voices and keyboard, with opt. congregation\*

Arranged by **JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN** 

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, from Cantata B.W.V. 147, by JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)



\* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 24349. A part for congregational singing appears on page 8. \*\* Words attributed to John Fawcett (1740-1817).

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<sup>\*</sup> Alternate text for Advent or Christmas Eve; by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman.







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Verse: Choir Only GENERAL WORSHIP - Words attributed to John Fawcett (1740-1817)

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. Thanks we give and adoration for Your gospel's joyful sound; May the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.

Verse: Choir Only ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP - Additional words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788

and Martin Madan (1726-1790), adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus, everlasting God, come down. Kings and empires all before You; Come, Lord Jesus, claim Your crown.

Postlude: Choir and Congregation



A Bach Benediction is an inspired adaptation of .S. Bach's Lesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. The addition of John Fawcett's 18<sup>th</sup> century bymn text, Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing, is a perfect match. It combines with an optional congregational refrain to create an unforgettable benediction that is certain to become a worship standard it is appropriate for worship throughout the year, and especially Eastertide, funerals, peace and weddings. An alternate text for Advent/Christmastide provides seasonal application. Perform the anthem in its entirety, or if a shorter benediction is preferred, perform only man. 64-71.

Suggested corresponding scripture readings for general worship include Numbers 6: 22-26, Psalm 67, Romans 1: 1-7 and 12: 9-18, 2 Corrections 13: 11-14, Philippians 2: 5-11, Ephesians 6: 21-24, and 2 Peter 3: 14-18, for Advent Christmas worship, Isaiah 40: 9-11, John 1: 1-18, and Zephaniah 3: 14-20.

Jean Anne Shafferman is Director of Church Choral Publications for Alfred Publishing Company. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.M.E. in vocal music education and an M.A. in music theory, she is active as a church musician, clinician and composer, and has sung in the famed Bach Choir of Bethlehem (PA) since 1983.

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