



## Teaching Notes – *Music*

### ***We are the light***

This beautiful new hymn is wonderfully sing-able and the words are really full of hope. It starts with the melody alone – which, like all of these songs, could be simply sung by a solo voice. However, as you can hear from the recording, it sits really well within young singers' voices and would be an excellent way of your church getting the local primary school involved as this song is really catchy and would be well-loved by this age group. As you can see, the score enables the younger voices to be supported by the sopranos if necessary, and you could even begin the whole song in unison with whatever voices you have available. The song works really well with simple piano accompaniment alone, but yet again there are options for many other different variations in texture. This could be entirely down to the fact that your forces only allow for piano and unison vocal line – but if you have more resources at your disposal then think how you can vary the texture within the hymn and not just from one hymn to another.

Although there is already great flexibility in the score – the 'Ah' section written as the SATB choral part leaps out as something that would work really well played by string quartet – or if you don't have that as an option simply take elements and play them on solo strings (eg the soprano part alone on the violin would make an excellent accompaniment to the melody line).

At bar 46, where the flute part echoes the soprano line – it may be possible to split a choir of children or upper voices only into two parts, so that one part sings the line marked 'voice' and another sings the soprano part as the echo.

The words move quite quickly in this song and yet are really crucial and wonderful so spend some time talking about how you can create a beautiful legato vocal line (by elongating the vowel sounds), whilst making sure the consonants remain clear and exciting.

*Cathy Lamb, March 2022*