A Godly Psalme of Mary Queene

Edited by Jason Smart

Al England now bee glad at ones, with one heart mynde and voyce:
for now haue the great-est cause, the great-est cause to syng and eke re-joyce.

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1. Al England now bee glad at ones,
   With one heart mynde and voyce:
   For now haue we the greatest cause
   To sing and eke reioyce.

2. For God hath brought his seruaunts trew
   From troubles sore and great,
   Put downe the proude, and hathe the meeke
   In theyr just places set.

3. The Lord hathe turnd his wrath and ire
   From us out of hys mynde:
   Beholding vs with countenaunce
   Moast louing sweete and kynde.

4. That God which might haue right wisely
   Destroyde vs euery one,
   Haþe shewed him self moast mercyful
   To healp vs al alone.

5. He hathe regarded equitie,
   Treuth, iustice, law, and right:
   And ouerthrowne and vanquisshed
   The wrongful dealers might.

6. Wee looked al for pestilence
   And vengeaunce at his hand,
   And eke innumerable plagues
   To come upon the land:

7. But nowe hathe hee sent downe his grace
   And mercy from aboue,
   And shewed vs undoubtedly
   A token of his loue.

8. Wee haue ful iustly looked heeare
   For death and ruines rife:
   And now doo wee beehold and trust
   A good and ioyful lyfe.

9. Yea, wee that weare moast sorowful,
   Without a spreet or heart:
   Within a quarter of an houre
   Did quicken and reuert.

10. Wee which weare brought by seruitude
    Untrewh and wronge toby,
    Do treuth and iustice execute,
    And put that wrong away.

11. But nowe wee shal with vnytie
    Bee able to withstand
    And vanquish al our enemies,
    And driue such fromoure land.

12. Oure kyngdome which deuyded so
    Could neuer long abyde
    Shall nowe in vnitie bee kept,
    And treason bee espide.

13. And wee that onely looked for
    Gods vengeaunce to vs bent
    Haue now his greatest benefyte
    Whiche hee to vs hathe sent.

14. Hee doothe beehold vs mercyli
    And wil continew stil,
    Yf wee as servauntes to his trewh
    Obey vnto his wyl.

15. Hee saw that wickednesse arose,
    And bare his trewh despite:
    And now wil hee out of the land
    Destroy the workers quite.

16. When tyme that none durst speake for trewh
    Then hee him selfe so good
    Hathe stepped foorth and opend al
    Tauenge the gylltesse bloude.

17. He setteth and establyssheth
    His servauntes in their right:
    And ouerthrows the wicked sort,
    For al theyr strength and might.

18. It is not armoure, harneyse bright,
    Nor any weapon strong,
    The strength that to the handes of men
    Or hoorses dothe belong:

19. Nor any power on the earth
    That can preuayle or stand,
    But onely God the Lord him self
    Wil haue the ypper hand.

20. What can a fortresse, castel strong,
    Or bulwarke els preuayle:
    Against the Lorde that maketh al;
    In neede theese thinges wyl fayle.

21. The lord beeholdes the hearts and myndes
    Of godly men ful playne,
    Which onely seeke that ryghtwysenesse
    And equitie may raygne.

22. How wondersly doothe God with vs
    His people England deale;
    Suche ioy as wee scarce looked for
    Among vs to reueale.

23. Hee healps the captiues out of prison,
    Breakes the walles of stone:
    And riddes his chosen from the death,
    And peryls euery one.
25. Oure comfort is come neare, and eke
    Oure prayer heard, I trust:
    Of God which in the heauen dwelles,
    And fyghteth for the iust.

26. For hee hathe set and stablysshed
    Oure worthy soueraigne:
    And oure liege lady, Marie Queene,
    On vs by trewh to raygne.

27. Hee hathe vs sent a comforter
    To bee oure healp and guyde:
    With pitie and with vertues al
    Endewd on euery syde.

28. The lawful, iust, and rightuouse,
    Of England, head, and Queene:
    To bee the true enheritoure,
    As hathe her brother beeene.

29. Not clayming by collusion,
    Nor cloking it by sleigthy:
    But by her byrth, descending from
    Her godly father streight.

30. She beeing eldest sister right
    Unto oure soueraigne Lord,
    Kyunge Edward late the syxt by name,
    Whose strength was gods trew word.

31. For which moast godly impe and bud
    Of Jessees stocke and roote,
    Though we haue almoost cause to sighe,
    And sorow bee oure boote:

32. Yet are wee comforted agayne,
    Lyft up, and eke erect:
    Bycause the Lord hath placed thus
    His chosen and elect.

33. Whiche beeing oure moast godly Queene,
    That seeks our preseruacion,
    No doubt wil strongly buyld vpon
    Her brothers good fondacion.

34. The ground worke hee hath layde him selfe,
    And shee is left a lon
    To buyld the house and fortresse vp
    Of trew religion.

35. O England now continew styl
    In myrth and ioy therefore:
    For God wyl strengthen day by day
    Your gladnesse more and more.

36. Our soueraygne and rightioyse Queene
    Wyl vyce and syn depresse,
    Wyl cheafly loue the churche of God,
    And punysh wickednesse.

37. The Lorde destroy her enemyes
    And make her foes bewrayde,
    To bee soone caught in the snare
    That they for her haue layde.

38. Defend her, Lord, and eke al those
    That beare to her good heart:
    And graunte that from thy holy word
    She neuer swarue neuer.

39. Then doubltesse al, bothe the old and yong,
    Shal prayse thy name for euer:
    And sing in psalmes to thee on earth,
    Which doost forsake vs neuer.

40. Lord God preseue the noble men,
    From dauengers il and crime:
    And send vs peace and quietnesse,
    In this same later tyme.

41. Al glory bee to God therefore,
    The father and the sone:
    And also to the holy ghost,
    In deitiye but one.

42. As it hath been from al begininges
    Unto this beeefore:
    As now it is, and from this tyme,
    Shalbee for euermore.
Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice parts is that of the source.

The original clef, staff signature and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves at the start of the piece. No mensuration symbols are given.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned. Accidentals not given explicitly in the source, but required through modernisation of the staff signature are placed before the note and have a superscript dot.

The spelling of the underlay in the four voice parts is mostly, but not entirely consistent; in this edition it has been made to agree with the Mean, which in turn agrees with the first verse of the poem. Contractions in the poem have been expanded and the punctuation lightly modernised throughout.

Source


The full title of the work is:

A Godly Psalme, of Mary Queene,
Which brought us comfort al,
Through God, whom wee of dewyte prayse,
That giues her foes a fal.

Only the first verse of Beeard’s poem is underlaid to the music. The poem is followed by a versification of psalm 145 by Thomas Bownell. It, too, is in common metre, so could have been sung to the same music.

Beeard (fl.1553–1574) was a Protestant clergyman who from 1560 to 1574 was rector of St Mary-at-Hill, Billingsgate. His *Godly Psalme* must have been written soon after Mary Tudor's accession in July 1553, for it calls on her to build strongly upon the church founded by her brother King Edward, ‘whose strength was God’s true word’. Beeard is not known as a composer and the music is uncredited, so it may well be that the music was written for him and should be treated as anonymous.

Bownell (d.1571) was instituted as vicar of Heston in 1560, having previously been curate of St James Garlickhithe.

Notes on the Readings of the Source

7 Ct new staff line in source with staff signature .bs for B and E begins with second C / 11 Ct new staff line in source with staff signature  for B only begins with D /