IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
for the First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir,
Olympia, Washington

Words by
CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894)

Music by
GUSTAV HOLST (1874–1934)

Arranged by
CATHERINE BENNETT

Gently, expressively (∫ = ca. 72–80)

* Also available for S.A.T.B voices, No. 18330.

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THE ECLI LICENSE DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY THIS MUSIC.
iron, wa

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, snow

in the bleak midwinter, many years ago.
Angels and archangels, all were gathered

there, cherubim*

seraphim

in the air,

His mother only, in her maiden bliss,

* No breath.
18329
35. mp unis.

A. wor shipped the Be - lov - ed, wor shipped with a

T. mp unis.

kiss.

38.

42. What can I give Him, poor as I am?

What can I give Him, oh, poor as I am?

What can I give Him, oh, poor as I am?

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

(accompaniment optional through m. 48)
46 If I were a shepherd,
If I were a humble shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a shepherd,
If I were a humble shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a shepherd,

50 cresc.
I would do my part; yet
I would do my part; yet

I have I give Him: give to Him my
In the **Bleak Midwinter** is a choral arrangement of a beloved Christmas carol, with melody by Gustav Holst (1906) and text adapted from Christina Rossetti’s famous 19th century poem. Appropriate for performance by school or church choirs, it should be performed very expressively, with some freedom of movement, highlighting the moving voices.

When performed by church choirs at Christmas, suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Isaiah 9: 1-6, Luke 2: 8-20 and Titus 2: 11-14. One basic homiletical theme is “treasures of the heart.”

**Catherine Bennett** lives in Olympia, Washington, where she is choir director and a humanities teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School and director of the Chancel Choir at the First United Methodist Church. With music degrees from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she is a widely published composer.