

# KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING

for S.S.A. voices, a cappella  
with optional Hand Drum\*

Traditional Spiritual

Adapted and arranged,  
with new material by  
**JAY ALTHOUSE**

Slow, steady walking tempo (♩ = ca. 60) *continue pattern through m. 16*

HAND DRUM (opt.) *mp*

SOPRANO I  
SOPRANO II *mp*

ALTO *mp*

PIANO (for rehearsal only) *mp*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing keep your  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

\* Also available for S.A.T.B. (28679), S.A.B. (28680), and T.T.B.B. (28682). Hand Drum part is on page 12.

Copyright © 2008 by Alfred Music  
All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA.

To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads)

6

- ing, for the time is draw - ing night. — Keep your —

- ing, for the time is draw - ing night. — Keep your

9

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

12

- ing, keep your — lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

15 *sub. mp* **17** (Drum tacet)

time is draw - ing nigh. — Oh, — chil - dren, don't get wea - ry, oh, —

time is draw - ing nigh. — Oh, — chil - dren, don't get wea - ry oh, —

*sub. mp*

*sub. mp*

19

chil - dren, don't get wea - ry. Oh, — chil - dren, don't get

chil - dren, don't get wea - ry. Oh, — chil - dren, don't get

22

wea - ry till your work is — done. — Keep your —

wea - ry till your work is — done. — Keep your

*p*

*p*

*p*

25

HAND DRUM

*p*

SOPRANO SOLO

*p*

Keep your lamps burn - ing, keep your lamps burn -

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn -

28

*continue pattern through m. 32*

*(join sopranos)*

ing, keep your lamps burn - ing, for the

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

31 *sub. f* **33** (Drum tacet)

time is draw - ing nigh. — Oh, — sis - ter, don't stop pray - ing. *f*

time is draw - ing nigh. — Oh, —

*sub. f*

35 Oh, sis - ter and

Oh, pray - ing. Oh, sis - ters and broth - ers,

broth - er, don't stop pray - ing. Oh, sis - ters and broth - ers,

38 broth - ers, — oh, sis - ters — and broth - ers, —

broth - ers and sis - ters, *cresc.* sis - ters and broth - ers, broth - ers and sis - ters,

broth - ers and sis - ters, *cresc.* sis - ters and broth - ers, broth - ers and sis - ters,

*cresc.*

41 *molto rit.* *ff* *a tempo p*

keep on pray-ing till the work is done! Keep your—

keep on pray-ing till the work is done! Keep your

*molto rit.* *ff* *a tempo p*

45 *p* *continue pattern*

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-

48

- ing, keep your— lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the

51 HAND DRUM

53

SOPRANO SOLO

*pp* *pp*

Keep your lamps burn-

time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your — lamps trimmed and burn-

time is draw - ing nigh. — Keep your lamps trimmed and burn-

54

ing, keep your lamps burn - ing,

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your —

- ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

57

keep your lamps burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh,  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh,  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh,

60

61

yes, it is, yes, it is.  
for the time is draw - ing nigh, for the for the  
for the time is draw - ing nigh, for the



63

*molto rit.* **Slowly** *ppp*

*molto rit.* **Slowly** *pp*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burn-ing

*molto rit.* **Slowly** *ppp* *Mm*

time is draw - ing nigh.

*ppp* *Mm*

time is draw - ing nigh.

*molto rit.* **Slowly** *ppp*

**Performance Note:** This spiritual should be performed at a slow walking tempo. One singer may use a walking stick, striking it on the floor on beat 1 of each measure when the drum is playing (measures 1-16, 25-32, 45-62). This is particularly effective when the stick is struck on a wooden floor, a block of wood, or a piece of plywood.

The message “keep your lamps trimmed and burning” is a reminder that one should always be ready for the Lord’s coming. As with many spirituals, the text may also refer to the flight of escaped slaves from the southern United States via the Underground Railroad.

# KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING

Traditional Spiritual

Adapted and arranged,  
with new material, by  
**JAY ALTHOUSE**

Slow, steady walking tempo (♩ = ca. 60)

Hand drum notation for 'Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning'. The score is written on a five-line staff with a 2/2 time signature. It begins with a *mp* dynamic and a tempo marking of 'Slow, steady walking tempo (♩ = ca. 60)'. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. Measure numbers 6, 12, 25, 31, 45, 51, 57, and 62 are indicated. Dynamics range from *mp* to *ppp*. The piece concludes with a *molto rit.* marking and a final note marked *ppp*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Copyright © 2008 by Alfred Music  
All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA.

To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads)



alfred.com