# WHEN DARKNESS COMES

A Cantata for Holy Week

by Susan Naus Dengler and Lee Dengler
Orchestrations by Stan Pethel

### ALSO AVAILABLE:

48614	Listening CD
48615	
48616	Bulk 10-Pack CDs
48617	
48618	Rehearsal Trax CDs
48619	PowerPoint Images CD-ROM
48620	Preview Pack

Flute: Oboe (Substitute Clarinet); Cello; Synth Strings for (optional) Keyboard 2.

Performance Time: Approximately 20 minutes



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## WHEN DARKNESS COMES

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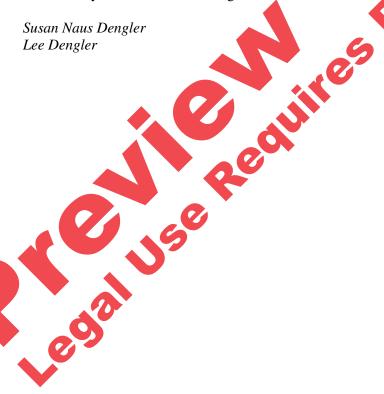
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#### **FOREWORD**

"The darkest hours in all the world were when our Savior died. Yet in those hours of grief and pain, our freedom He supplied."

In the cantata, When Darkness Comes, we are led through the journey of darkness that Jesus undertook for our sakes. It began as the shadows gathered over that upper room where Jesus met with His disciples, and culminated on the following day - Good Friday - when darkness covered the entire land at the noon hour. We follow this mission of love to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' trial before the authorities and finally, to Calvary, where the cross awaited our precious Lord. As we reflect and respond to that unsurpassing love that continues to offer hope to the world, we are reminded that this same Savior, who endured this darkest of journeys for our sakes, is with us when times of darkness enter our own lives.

It is our sincere prayer that in this service of remembering through word and music, your faith will be strengthened and renewed.



#### PERFORMANCE NOTES

When Darkness Comes may be presented in a variety of ways. Here are some suggestions for its use:

- If desired, it can be presented with congregational involvement by offering the opportunities to participate in the "Gathering Litany" on page 8, and to join in singing "When Darkness Comes Epilogue." Reproducible congregational parts are provided on pages 36-37.
- If congregational involvement is not used, the "Gathering Litany" could either be presented by two narrators, or with a single leader and the choir responding where "All" is indicated. Your pastor, or another congregational member, could also be invited to lead the litany and/or to offer the prayer on page 32.
- Elements of the Tenebrae service could be incorporated to provide a visual component. A simple table near the front of the sanctuary could be set with five candles which would be lit at the beginning of the service. They would be extinguished, one by one, at the following points in the cantata.
  - 1: Following "When Darkness Comes Prologue" on page 7
  - 2: Following "Underneath the Olive Trees" on page 15
  - 3: Following the final words of narration on page 25
  - 4: Following "Salvation Found Its Birth" on page 3
  - 5: Following "When Darkness Comes Epilogue" on page 35
- Optional parts for flute, oboe (or clarinet), cello and synthesizer are available; however, the work can also be presented effectively with piano accompaniment.
- A PowerPoint images CD Rom is available separately from the publisher (48619). Look for this icombelow throughout the choral score as a prompt when to change to each image which corresponds with various moments in the cantata.



Each icon is numbered coinciding with the appropriate PowerPoint slide contained on the CD rom to be projected during the cantata.

## PPT

## WHEN DARKNESS COMES

Prologue

PowerPoint image #1



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## PPT

## UNDERNEATH THE OLIVE TREES

PowerPoint image #3



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### **FRIDAY MORNING**

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER



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## SALVATION FOUND ITS BIRTH

Words by SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by LEE DENGLER Incorporating tune: AVON by HUGH WILSON (1766-1824)



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PowerPoint image #6

#### **NARRATOR 2:**

"It is finished." (*Pause*) When Jesus knew that all had been accomplished, He said, "It is finished." Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

#### **NARRATOR 1:**

Let us pray.

"Out of the depths, we cry unto You, O Lord. Lord, hear the voice of our supplications. If You, O Lord, kept a record of our sins, who could stand? But thanks be to God that with You, there is forgiveness." (Psalm 130:1-4 adapted)

Because Your beloved Son walked through the valley of the shadow of death for our sakes, we do not need to be afraid. Through His wounds, we are healed. Through His sacrifice, we are offered the hope of new life.

#### (Underscore begins)

Even when darkness comes to us, we know that Jesus, the Light of the world, faced the darkness for our sakes, and it is His light that will lead us on. The only response we have to offer is to say, "Thank You, loving God, for this unspeakable gift." We pray this with gratitude and faith, in the name of Jesus Christ, our loving Lord and Savior. Amen.



#### When Darkness Comes - Choir Devotions

#### Rehearsal #1

Reading from "When Darkness Comes:"

"When darkness comes, and all seems lost, let us remember how Christ bore the cross."

Scripture: "But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light for me." Micah 7:7.8 (NRSV)

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: O blessed Lord, we come to You with gratitude that You sent Your beloved Son, Jesus, to endure the cross for our sakes. As we prepare, once again, to focus on His journey into the darkness, we are reminded that this same Savior walks with us during times in our own lives when things seem dark. Be with us as we lift our voices to tell this precious story of love. In Jesus name. Amen.

#### Rehearsal #2

Reading from "Underneath the Olive Trees:"

"Facing darkness, Jesus knew redemption's hour had come."

Scripture: "Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it. I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness. I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness." Isaiah 42:5-7 (NRSV adapted)

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: Precious Lord, we come to You in prayer, just as Jesus did on that night in the garden of Gethsemane. As He knelt beneath those olive trees knowing what was to come, He prayed, "Though the cup is hard to bear, Your will not mine, be done?" We pray this same prayer as we think of those things that weigh heavily upon our hearts. We thank You that You have promised to walk with us, even when our path is dark and gloomy. Be with us now, as we learn words and music that remind us that Jesus walked a journey of darkness for us. Amen.

#### Rehearsal #3

Reading from "Friday Morning:

"It was Friday morning as the sun was rising in the eastern sky.

It was not that morning when they said our Lord must be crucified."

Scripture: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: Lord of all mercy, we come to You now, remembering what Your Son, Jesus, was willing to suffer for us as He was led to Calvary on that Friday morning, so long ago. As we consider the height and depth, and the length and width of Your love, we are humbled to be recipients of this extravagant gift of grace. Help us to be aware of Your presence in all the moments of our lives, whether we walk in days of darkness or light. Amen.

#### Rehearsal #4

Reading from "Salvation Found Its Birth:"

"Our precious Lord, the Light of Life, shone bright while here on earth, but it was in those darkest hours, salvation found its birth."

Scripture: "May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:11-14 (NRSV)

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: Precious Lord, we draw near to You now, as we think about those darkest hours in all the world, when our Lord and Savior hung, dying on the cross. As You granted Him the strength to endure such agony, we are aware that You have also promised to be with us during our own times of trials, making us strong with the strength that comes from Your glorious power. Show us how to live as people who have been rescued from the power of darkness, and who have taken our place in the kingdom of Your beloved Son. Amen.

#### Rehearsal #5

Reading from closing prayer, page 28:

"Even when darkness comes to us, we know that Jesus, the Light of the world, faced the darkness for our sakes, and it is His light that will lead us on."

Scripture: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those He redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. He brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds as under. Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind." Psain 107:2,3014,15 (NRSV adapted)

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: Out of the depths, we cry unto You, O Lord Hear the voice of our supplication. We give You thanks that because Jesus walked through the valley of the shadow of death for our sakes, we do not need to be afraid. We thank You, Loving God, for this unspeakable gift. Amen.

#### Rehearsal #6

Reading from "When Darkness Comes:"

"You offer hope when darkness comes."

Scripture: "Where can f to from Your spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to You, the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." Psalm 139:7-12 (NRSV)

Sharing of concerns and joys. (Invite choir members to share.)

Prayer: O blessed Lord, how great the price that Jesus paid to offer us the hope of new life. Help us to live as people who know how great is Your love toward us. Help us to seek to share this love with our world. As we share this everlasting story, may we feel Your abiding presence and know that You have promised to be with us always. Amen.

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LEE DENGLER is a composer and arranger with over 400 published choral anthems, cantatas for Christmas and Holy Week, children's musicals and vocal and piano solo collections to his credit. Lee studied composition and arranging with Alice Parker, and received both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from West Chester University in West Chester, Pennsylvania. His music is performed throughout the US and in many other countries throughout the world. He currently serves as conductor for the Adult Choir at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. He is also an outstanding baritone soloist who has appeared in a wealth of operas, oratorios and recitals. Lee has taught voice and composition on the college level, and is currently a freelance music editor and engraver.

SUSAN NAUS DENGLER is a lyricust and writer. Her lyrics, narrations, and poetry have been used by many composers and publishers. Together with her husband Lee, she has written many anthems, captatas for Christmas and Holy Week and children's musicals. She has conducted children's choirs and has served as a guest conductor for choral testivals. She developed an intergenerational arts curriculum for churches that teaches children healthy vocal technique and introduces musical concepts, along with visual arts and drama, all of which teach Biblical stories and spiritual truths. In addition, Susan has taught classes and private students on the high school and college level. She is a soprano soloist who has sung in a long list of operas and oratorios throughout her career. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from West Chester University and her Master of Music Degree in vocal performance and church music from Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Lee and Susan live along the Elkhart River in Goshen, Indiana where they enjoy spending time with their grown children and five grandchildren.