

Behold how good a thing

The first part

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius
Be - hold how good a thing it is, be - hold how

Medius
Be - hold how good a thing it is, how good a thing it

Contratenor
Be -

Sextus

Tenor

Bassus

good a thing it is, it is, it is,

is, be - hold how good a thing it is, for

-hold how good a thing it is, it is, be - hold how good a thing it

Be - hold how good a thing it is,

Be - hold how good a thing it is, how good a thing it

Be - hold how good a thing it is, it

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for bre - thren to a - gree, for bre - thren to a - gree, for to a -
 bre - thren to a - gree, to a - gree, when
 is, for bre - thren to a - gree, for bre - thren to a -
 for bre - thren to a - gree, when men a -
 is, it is, for bre - thren to a - gree,
 is, for bre - thren to a - gree,

-gree, when men a-mongst them do no strife,
 men a-mongst them do no strife, but peace and
 -gree, to a - gree, when men a-mongst them do no strife, but
 -mongst them do no strife, but peace -
 when men a - mongst them do no strife, but peace and con - cord see,
 when men a-mongst them do no strife,

but peace and con - cord see, and con - cord see,
 con - cord see, *but peace and con - cord see,* full
 peace and con - cord, but peace and con - cord see, and con - cord—
 — and con - cord see, full like un - to
but peace and con - cord see, full like un -
 — but peace and con - cord see, and con - cord see,

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full like un - to the pre - ci-ous— balm, full like un - to, full like—
 like un - to the pre - ci-ous— balm, the pre - ci - ous balm, *the pre - cious balm,*—
 see, full like un - to,
 the pre - cious balm,
 -to the pre - ci-ous— balm, the pre - ci - ous balm, full like un -
 full

— un-to the pre - ci-ous balm, from
 — from Aa - ron's head that fell,
 full like un - to the pre - ci-ous balm,
 full like un - to the pre - ci-ous balm, the pre - ci - ous
 -to the pre - cious balm, from Aa - ron's
 like un - to the pre - ci-ous balm, the pre - ci - ous

Aa - ron's head that fell, that fell, from
 from Aa - ron's head that fell,
 balm, from Aa - ron's head that fell, that fell, from Aa - ron's
 head that fell, from Aa - ron's head that
 balm, from Aa - ron's head that fell, from Aa - ron's

Aa - ron's head that fell, that fell,
 from Aa - ron's head that fell, that fell,
 from Aa - ron's head that fell, that fell, and did des-cend,
 head that fell, that fell, from Aa - ron's head that fell, and did des-
 fell, from Aa - ron's head that fell, and did des - cend up - on
 head that fell, and did des - cend, and did des-cend up-on his

and did des-
 and did des-
 -cend up - on his beard, his gar - ment skirts un - til, and
 his beard, his gar - ment skirts un-til, un - til, his gar-ment skirts un - til,
 beard, his gar-ment skirts un - til, his gar - ment skirts un - til,

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and did des-cend up - on his beard, his gar-ment skirts un -
 -cend, *and did des-cend* up - on his beard, his gar-ment skirts un - til, un - til,
 -cend up-on his beard, his gar-ment skirts un - til, his gar-ment skirts un-
 did des - cend up-on his beard, and did des - cend up - on his beard, his

and

- til, un - til, his gar - ment skirts un - - til.
 his gar-ment skirts un - - - - til.
 - til, *his gar-ment skirts un - til,* his gar - ment skirts un - til.
 gar-ment skirts un - til, un - - til, his gar - ment skirts un - til.
 his gar-ment skirts un - til, un - til, his gar - ment skirts un - til.
 did des-cend up - on his beard, his gar - ment skirts un - til.

The second part

And as the plea - sant morn - ing dew, the plea-sant morn - ing dew, the Moun -

And as the plea - sant morn - ing dew, the plea -

And as the plea - sant morn - ing dew, morn - ing_ dew,

And as the plea-sant morn - ing dew, the plea-sant morn - ing dew, morn-ing dew, the plea - sant morn -

And as the plea - sant morn - ing dew, morn - ing_ dew,

And as the plea - sant morn - ing

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-tains doth re-lieve, doth re - lieve, the Moun - tains doth re-

-sant morn - ing dew, the Moun - tains doth re-lieve, the Moun -

the Moun - tains doth re - lieve, doth re - lieve, the

- ing dew, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve,

the Moun - tains doth re - lieve, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve,

dew, the plea - sant morn - ing dew, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve,

-lieve, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve:
 - tains doth re - lieve, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve:
 Moun - tains doth re - - lieve, doth re - lieve:
 the Moun - tains doth re - lieve: So God
 the Moun - tains doth re - lieve, the Moun - tains doth re - lieve: So
 the Moun - tains doth re - lieve: So

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So God - -
 So God will bless where con - cord is,
 So God will bless where con - cord is, so
 - - will bless where con - cord is, so God will
 God will bless where con - cord is, so
 God will bless where con - cord is, so God will bless where con - cord is,
 God will bless where con - cord is, so God will bless where con - cord is,

— will bless, where con - cord is, where con - cord is, so God
 where con - cord is, so God will bless where con - cord
 God will bless where con-cord is, so God will bless where con - cord is, so
 bless where con - cord is, so God will bless where con -
 God will bless where con - cord is, so God will bless where con - cord
 so God will bless where con - cord is,

— will bless where con - cord is, where con - cord is, and life e - ter - nal
 is, where con-cord is, and life e - ter - nal
 God will bless where con - cord is, and life e - ter - nal give, e -
 - cord is, will bless where con - cord is,
 is, where con - cord is, and
 so God will bless where con - cord is,

give, e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal
 give, and
 -ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal give,
 and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal
 life, and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal give, e - ter - nal
 and life e - ter - nal give,

give, and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter -
 life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal
 and life e - ter - nal give, e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal give,
 give, and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - nal give, and
 give, and life e - ter - nal give, give, and life e - ter - nal give,
 and life e - ter - nal give, and

- nal give, and life e - ter - nal give.

give, e - ter - - nal give, and life e - ter - - nal give.

and life e - ter - nal give, e - ter - - - - nal give.

life e - ter - - - - nal give, e - ter - - - - nal give.

and life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - - - - nal give.

life e - ter - nal give, and life e - ter - - - - nal give.

Source: William Byrd, *Songs of sundrie natures...* (London, 1589-1610), no.38 (40 in 1610 edition).
 Text: Psalm 133.

All voices, 20-26: underlay generally too crowded to tell whether *pre . ci ous* or *pre . cious* is intended. The unambiguous trisyllables at II.22 and IV.26 have been taken as authority for the former, more “singable” reading.

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