

Except the Lord build the house

An Anthem

G Major*

Psalm 127

No copyright. Transcribed from The Suffolk Harmony, 1786.

William Billings, 1786

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-8. The score is for four voices: Treble, Counter, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is G Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "Ex - cept the Lord build the house, Their labor is but lost, their labor is but lost, their".

Musical score for the second system, measures 9-16. The score is for four voices: Tr. (Tenor), C. (Counter), T. (Tenor), and B. (Bass). The key signature is G Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "labor is but lost, that built it. Except the Lord keep the city, The watchmen waketh, the".

Musical score for the third system, measures 17-25. The score is for four voices: Tr. (Tenor), C. (Counter), T. (Tenor), and B. (Bass). The key signature is G Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "The watchmen waketh in vain, the watchmen waketh, the watchmen waketh, the watchmen waketh,".

*Originally in A Major, with note by Billings: "Set this piece in G."

Tr. 30
 C.
 T. 8
 B.

Ex - cept the Lord keep the city,
 watchmen waketh in vain.
 The watchmen waketh, the

Tr. 35
 C.
 T. 8
 B.

The watchmen waketh in vain.
 watchmen waketh, The watchmen waketh, the watchmen waketh, the

Tr. 40 45
 C. that you
 T.
 B.

watchmen waketh in vain. In vain, in vain,
 It is but lost la - bor

Tr. 50 55
 C.
 T.
 B.

haste to rise up early,
 and so late take rest, and so late take rest.

Tr. 60 65

C.

T.

B.

8 And eat the bread of carefulness, And eat the bread of carefulness. Lo,

Tr. 70 75

C.

T.

B.

8 children are an heritage, and gift that cometh of the Lord. Happy, happy is the
Happy, happy is the man that

Tr. 80

C.

T.

B.

8 Happy, happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them, full of them,
Happy, happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them, full of them,
man that hath his quiver full of them, full of them, full of them. He shall not be a -
hath his quiver full of them, full of them, full of them. He shall not be a - sham - ed to

Tr. 85 90

C.

T.

B.

8 full of them. He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak, _____ he shall not be a -
He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak, _____ to speak, _____ to
- sham-ed to speak, _____ he shall not be a - sham - ed to
speak, _____ he shall not be a - sham - ed to speak, to

95

Tr. - sham-ed to speak, _____ He shall not be a -

C. speak, _____ with his en - em - ies, his en - em - ies.

T. speak, _____ He shall not be a - sham - ed to

B. speak, to speak, _____ to speak, to speak, _____

100

Tr. - sham-ed to speak with his enemies, He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak,

C. He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies in the gate, To speak,

T. speak, _____ He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak,

B. He shall not be a - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies in the gate,

105

110

Tr. To speak, to speak, to speak with his en - em - ies, he shall not be a -

C. To speak, to speak, to speak with his en - em - ies, he shall not be a -

T. To speak, to speak, to speak with his en - em - ies, he shall not be a -

B. To speak, to speak, to speak with his en - em - ies, he shall not be a -

115

120

Tr. - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies, in the gate.

C. - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies, in the gate.

T. - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies, in the gate.

B. - sham - ed to speak with his en - em - ies, in the gate.