

15. Song for the Way *

Slowly, and in free chant style

Music: Michael Herry fms
Text: from the Carmina Gadelica

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/style is 'Slowly, and in free chant style'. The score is divided into three systems. The first system has two staves (voice and piano) with lyrics: 'Bless to me O God the earth be-neath my foot. Bless to me the thing where-on is set my mind. Bless to me O God the Bless to me the thing where-'. The second system also has two staves with lyrics: 'path where-on I go. on is set my love. Bless to me O God, the thing of my de-sire: Bless to me the thing where-on is set my hope:'. The third system has two staves with lyrics: 'Thou ev-er more of ev-er more, Bless thou to be my rest. Thou ev-er more of ev-er more, Bless thou to be my rest.' The piano accompaniment includes various chords and melodic lines, with some sections marked 'poco rit.' and 'rallentando'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Cm Gm/B^b A^b Fm Fm⁶/G G Cm Gm/B^b

Bless to me O God the earth be-neath my foot. Bless to me the thing where-on is set my mind. Bless to me O God the Bless to me the thing where-

poco rit.

Cm⁷/A^b F Gsus G Cm Cm/B^b A^bma⁷ A^bma⁷/F Gm

path where-on I go. on is set my love. Bless to me O God, the thing of my de-sire: Bless to me the thing where-on is set my hope:

rallentando

Fm Cm/E^b Fm⁶/D Fm⁶/D^b G⁷ Cm

Thou ev-er more of ev-er more, Bless thou to be my rest. Thou ev-er more of ev-er more, Bless thou to be my rest.

rallentando

* In September 2014, I had the joy of walking some of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. Prior to setting out, I spent some time in the warm hospitality of Fr Roddy McAuley, a parish priest near Fort William in the west of Scotland. Roddy showed me a much loved book from his library, 'the Carmina Gadelica', a collection of ancient Celtic prayers and poems, one of which was 'Journey Blessing'. I copied the first verse and it became my prayer, and soon my song, on the path. Br Michael Herry