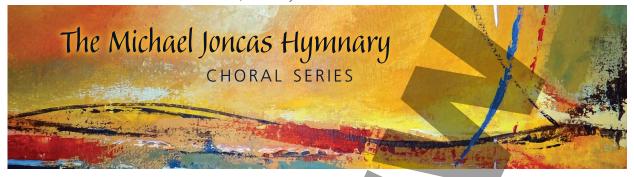
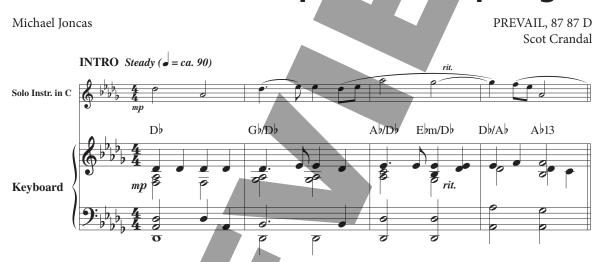
#### Faithful to the Spirit's Prompting Two-part Choir, Descant, Keyboard, Guitar,

Solo Instrument in C, Assembly



# Faithful to the Spirit's Prompting



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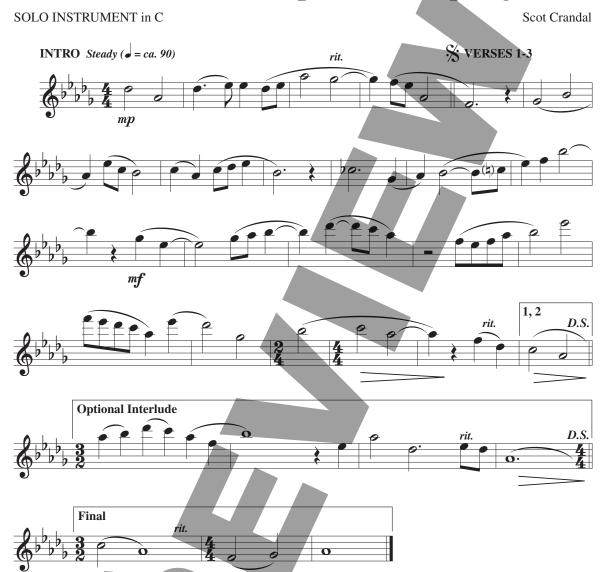


Suggestion: Verse 1: Tenor/Bass sing melody; Verse 2: Soprano/Alto sing melody and TB sing harmony; Verse 3: Add descant, creating three parts, with some basses reinforcing the melody, with the goal of keeping a good balance among the three parts.





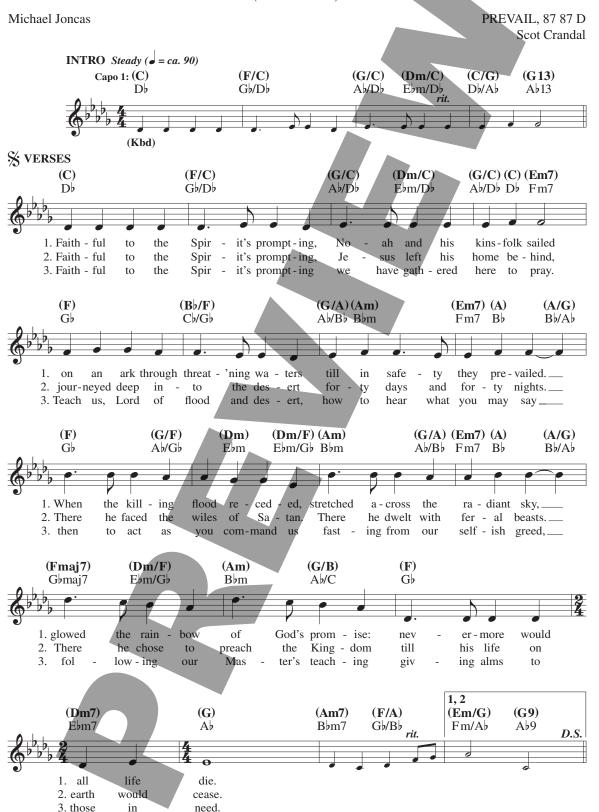
# Faithful to the Spirit's Prompting

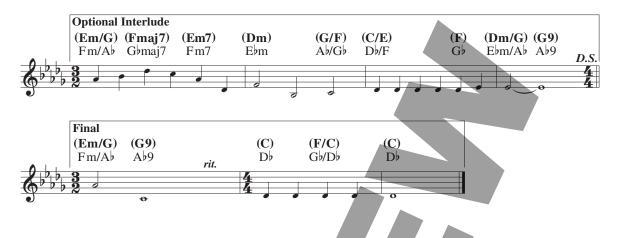


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### Faithful to the Spirit's Prompting

(Guitar/Vocal)





#### **Textwriter Notes**

The Genesis and 1 Peter readings for the First Sunday of Lent, Year B, in the Sunday Lectionary offer first a narrative of God's covenant made with all living things (the rainbow image stretching from horizon to horizon) to refrain from their total destruction and then a theological reflection on how that covenant promise is fulfilled and transcended in Christian Baptism. The psalm emphasizes the covenant dynamics in both readings, calling to mind God's faithfulness to his covenants, manifest in compassion, love, kindness, and humanity's "education" in likewise acting as the covenant demands. The Gospel reading, a spare account of Jesus' temptations in the desert from Mark, paralleling Jesus' forty day experience in the wilderness with the Israelite people's forty year post-Exodus wandering; in both cases they come out of this conflict equipped with a message—the Sinai Covenant in the case of the Israelites and a *kerygma* proclamation ("The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent!") in the case of Jesus. Jesus' call for *metanoia* (total transformation of life direction and values) continues to confront us, centuries after his original preaching.

"Faithful to the Spirit's Prompting" seeks to tie together Noah's transforming experience surviving the Great Flood, Jesus' transforming experience during forty days of desert-dwelling, and our transforming experience by giving ourselves to the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that mark the Christian Lent. Stanza one is a fairly straightforward retelling of God's blessing of humanity through Noah and his family's preservation from the waters of death by means of the Ark. Stanza two suggests that one of the outcomes of Jesus' temptation in the desert was his commitment to further his Father's reign by his words and actions. Finally, stanza three articulates the Christian understanding of God as Triune, by acknowledging the "Lord of flood and desert" (YHWH = God the Father), the Master's example (Jesus = Son of God), and the Spirit's prompting to align us with Father and Son, especially through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

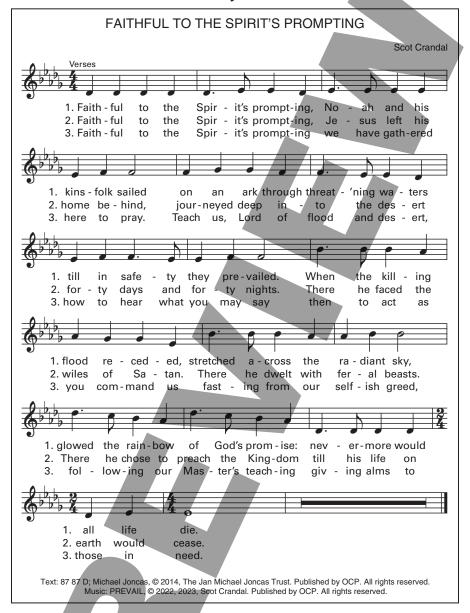
-Michael Joncas

# Composer Notes

In this powerful text, Michael Joncas calls attention to the transformative experiences lived by Noah, Jesus, and us (if we so choose). When I set out to compose a tune for this text, I knew that I wanted to capture this sense of journey-through-experience, a feeling of arriving somewhere new and good, while honoring our roots with a hint of our beginning in the final phrase.

—Scot Crandal

#### Assembly Edition



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