



CAROL BARNETT

COURSING RIVER





BEADY EYES PUBLISHING
www.carolbarnett.net

Coursing River was written in honor of James Gertmenian and Sam King on the occasion of their retirement from eighteen years of ministry at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. It was a privilege to set Jim's own words, first in a congregational hymn and then in this anthem, based on the hymn.

First performance
January 25, 2015
Plymouth Congregational Church Choir/Philip Brunelle
Minneapolis, MN

duration: c. 3:00


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THERE IS A COURSING RIVER

There is a coursing river
Beneath the common sod
Whose depth we cannot fathom,
Whose source is none but God;
And pilgrims on their journeys
Are often unaware
That freshets rising from below
Are welling everywhere.

Their course cannot be bounded
By book or creed or sign,
By certainty or logic,
By reason or by rhyme.
We cannot claim the knowledge
Of where a spring will flow,
Or when God's grace will surface
From reservoirs below.

But if some thirsty trav'ler
Should faint upon the way,
Let others come assuring
To comfort and to pray
That though distressed and doubting
The injured one will know
How water rises to the need
And emptied cups o'erflow.

So pilgrims, be encouraged!
Though all around you lies
A rocky and a barren land
Where everything seems dry.
There is a coursing river
Beneath the common sod
Whose depth we cannot fathom,
Whose source is none but God.

Text © James Gertmenian, 2014

Tune: *Gertmenian* Carol Barnett 7.6.7

Commissioned by the Anthem Commissioning Program of Plymouth Congregational Church
in honor of James Gertmenian and Sam King and their ministry among us for 18 years

Coursing River

James Gertmenian

Carol Barnett

$\text{♩} = 52$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ throughout)

Soprano *p* Lu le lu lu — lu — lu — a - lu — a - lu — a - lu — *mp* There

Alto *p* A - lu — a - lu — *mp* There

Tenor *mp* Ah — — — — — *mp* There

Bass *p* A - lu — a - lu — a - lu — *mp* There

Keyboard (rehearsal only)

S ⁶ — is a cours - ing riv - er be - neath the com - mon sod ² whose

A ² — is a cours - ing riv - er be - neath the com - mon sod, a - lu, ² whose

T ² — is a cours - ing riv - er be - neath the com - mon sod, a - lu, ² whose

B ² — is a cours - ing riv - er be - neath the com - mon sod ² whose

Kybd. ⁶ ² ² ²

Text © 2014 James Gertmenian
Tune © 2014 Carol Barnett

10

S
depth we can - not fath - om, _____ whose source is none but God; _____ 2 and

A
depth we can - not fath - om, _____ whose source is none but God; a - lu, _____ 2 and

T
8
depth we can - not fath - om, _____ whose source is none but God; a - lu, _____ 2 and

B
depth we can - not fath - om, _____ whose source is none but God; _____ 2 and

Kybd.

14

S
pil - grims on their jour - neys are of - ten un - a - ware _____ 2 that

A
pil - grims on their jour - neys _____ are of - ten un - a - ware _____ 2 that

T
8
pil - grims on their jour - neys are of - ten un - a - ware _____ 2 that

B
pil - grims on their jour - neys are of - ten un - a - ware, _____ ah, _____ 2 that

Kybd.

18

S fresh - ets ris - ing from be-low are well - ing ev - 'ry - where. Their

A fresh - ets ris - ing from be-low are well - ing ev - 'ry - where. Lu lu

T fresh - ets ris - ing from be-low are well - ing ev - 'ry - where. A - lu lu

B fresh - ets ris - ing from be-low are well - ing ev - 'ry - where.

Kybd.

22

S course, their course can - not be bound - ed by book or creed or

A lu a - lu, their course can - not be bound - ed by book or creed or

T lu a - lu, their course can - not be bound - ed by book or creed or

B Their course can - not be bound - ed by book or creed or

Kybd.

26

S sign, ah, by cer - tain - ty, by rea - son or by rhyme. We

A sign, ah, by cer - tain - ty, by reas - son or by rhyme. We

T sign, by cer - tain - ty or log - ic, by rea - son or by rhyme. We

B sign, by cer - tain - ty or log - ic, by rea - son or by rhyme. We

Kybd.

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

32

S can - not claim the know - ledge of where a spring will flow, or when God's grace will

A can - not claim the know - ledge of where a spring will flow, or when God's grace will

T can - not claim the know - ledge of where a spring will flow, or when God's grace will

B can - not claim the know - ledge of where a spring will flow, or when God's grace will

Kybd.

37

S *p*
 sur - face from res - er - voirs be - low. A - lu lu

A *p*
 sur - face from res - er - voirs be - low. A - lu,

T *p*
 sur - face from res - er - voirs be - low. A - lu lu lu

B *p*
 sur - face from res - er - voirs be - low.

Kybd.

41

S
 lu, but if some thirst - y trav - ler should faint up - on the way, let

A
 but if some thirst - y trav - ler, ah, should faint up - on the way, let

T
 lu ah, should faint up - on the way, let

B
 But if some thirst - y trav - ler should faint up - on the way, let

Kybd.

46

S
oth - ers come as - sur - ing to com - fort — and to pray, ah, — that though dis -

A
oth - ers come as - sur - ing to com - fort — and to pray, ah, — that though dis -

T
8
oth - ers come as - sur - ing to com - fort, to com - fort and to pray, — though dis -

B
oth - ers come as - sur - ing to com - fort, to com - fort and to pray, — though dis -

Kybd.

51

S
tressed — and doubt - ing the in - jured one will know how wa - ter ris - es *cresc.*

A
tressed and doubt - ing the in - jured one will know how

T
8
tressed — and doubt - ing the in - jured one will know how

B
tressed and doubt - ing the in - jured one will know how wa - ter *cresc.*

Kybd.

56

S to the need and emp-tied cups o'er - flow. So pil-grims, be en - cour-aged! Though

A *cresc.* wa-ter ris - es and emp-tied cups o'er - flow. So pil-grims, be en - cour-aged! Though

T *cresc.* wa-ter ris - es and emp-tied cups o'er - flow. So pil-grims, be en - cour-aged! Though

B ris - es to the need and emp-tied cups o'er - flow. So pil-grims, be en - cour-aged! Though

Kybd.

61

S all a-round you lies a rock - y and a bar-ren land where ev 'ry-thing seems

A all a-round you lies a rock - y and a bar-ren land where ev - 'ry-thing seems

T all a-round you lies a rock - y and a bar-ren land where ev - 'ry-thing seems

B all a-round you lies a rock - y and a bar-ren land where ev - 'ry-thing seems

Kybd.

66

S dry. There is a cours-ing riv-er be - neath the com - mon

A dry. There is a cours-ing riv-er be - neath the com - mon

T dry. There is a cours-ing riv-er be - neath the com - mon

B dry. There is a cours-ing riv-er be - neath the com - mon

Kybd.

70

S *p cresc.* sod whose depth we can - not fath - om, whose source is none but God. *f*

A *p cresc.* sod whose depth we can - not fath - om, whose source is none but God. *f*

T *p cresc.* sod whose depth we can - not fath - om, whose source is none but God. *f*

B *p cresc.* sod whose depth we can - not fath - om, whose source is none but God. *f*

Kybd.

Coursing River

(4-part hymn setting)

1. There is a coursing riv - er Be - neath the com - mon
2. Their course can - not be bound - ed By book or creed or
3. But if some thirst - y trav - 'ler Should faint up - on the
4. So pil - grims, be en - cour - aged! Though all a - round you

sod sign, way, lies
Whose By Let A
depth cer - tain - ty rock - y
we can - not or as a fath - om, log - ic, sur - ing bar - ren land
Whose By To Where

source is none but God; And pil - grims on their
rea - son or by to rhyme. And We can - not claim the
com - fort and to pray dry. That though dis - tressed and
ev - 'ry - thing seems dry. There is a cours - ing

jour - neys Are of - ten un - a - ware That
know - ledge Of where a spring will flow, Or
doubt - ing The in - jured the one will know How
riv - er Be - neath the com - mon mon sod Whose

fresh - ets ris - ing from be - low Are well - ing ev - 'ry where
when God's grace will sur - face From res - er - voirs be - low
wa - ter ris - es to the need And emp - tied cups o'er - flow
depth we can - not fath - om, Whose source is none but God