

Gift of Heaven

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN *Prayerfully, confidently* (♩ = ca. 74)

Capo 3: (C) Eb (G) Bb (Csus4) Ebsus4 (C) Eb (F) Ab

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Keyboard

Bread, the gift of heav - en, our

(E) G (E/G#) G/B (Asus4) Csus4 (Am) Cm (G/B) Bb/D

life and our sal - va - tion: When we share this

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The Refrain may be played as an Introduction. During the verses, the choir may sing the Ostinato Refrain on "oo."
The keyboard accompaniment for the verses serves as an alternate accompaniment to the Ostinato Refrain.

(Csus4) (C) (Am7) (Esus4) 1... Final
 Ebsus4 Eb Cm7 Gsus4 (E) (Am) (G) (E)
 G Cm Bb to Verses G Fine

ban - quet we re - mem - ber you. you.

VERSES

(C) (G) (Csus4) (C) (F) (E) (E/G#) (Asus4) (Am)
 Eb Bb Ebsus4 Eb Ab G G/B Csus4 Cm

Melody

Harmony

1. Bless - ed are you, Lord, God of our sal - va - tion.
 2. In faith we of - fer gifts of your cre - a - tion.
 3. Bread of our har - vest, Wine the fruit of our _____ hands,
 4. Drink of this good - ness, taste the grace e - ter - nal.
 5. Bread of sal - va - tion, now in true com - mun - ion
 6. Food for our hun - ger, ta - ble of our Shep - herd,

(G/B) (Csus4) (C) (Esus4) (E) (Am) (G)
 Bb/D Ebsus4 Eb Gsus4 G Cm Bb D.C.

1. Through your good - ness we have come to give you thanks.
 2. In your love ac - cept this hum - ble sac - ri - fice.
 3. now be - come our life, our truth, our on - ly way.
 4. Ho - ly man - na is our bread, our joy - ful feast.
 5. bro - ken, blessed and shared so all may be as one.
 6. lead us to the king - dom, guide us all our days.

D.C.

Gift of Heaven

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) in C

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN (♩ = ca. 74)

Variation I

Variation II

Variation III

1... to Verses Final Fine

to Verses Fine

to Verses Fine

VERSES 1-6

Variation I D.C.

Variation II D.C.

Variation III D.C.

Gift of Heaven

SOLO INSTRUMENT(S) in B \flat

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 74$)

Variation I

Variation II

Variation III

	1...	to Verses	Final	Fine
Staff 1				
Staff 2				
Staff 3				

VERSES 1-6

Variation I

Variation II

Variation III

D.C.

D.C.

D.C.

Gift of Heaven

HANDBELLS

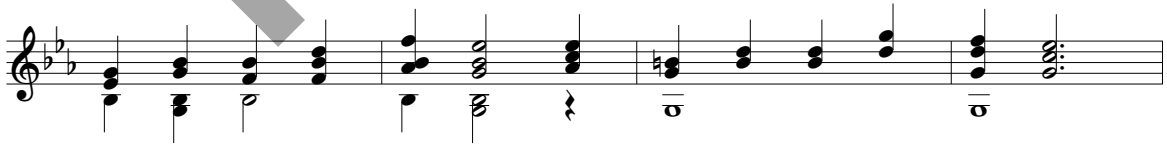
Maureen Briare



OSTINATO REFRAIN/VARIATION 1 (*♩ = ca. 74*)



VERSES 1-6/VARIATION 2



Gift of Heaven

CELLO (or BASSOON)

Maureen Briare

OSTINATO REFRAIN/VARIATION 1 (♩ = ca. 74)



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Refrain may be played as an Introduction.

Composer Notes

I have a personal affinity for prayerful ostinatos, where melody and text intersect to draw a person deeper into God’s spiritual embrace and beauty. I like to think of an ostinato as a musical ‘journey’ of sorts, in which choir, instruments, and solo voices can be creatively varied or simplified to evoke differing timbres within the melodies and harmonies of the song. I find great joy in arranging ostinatos, and I hope that you will enjoy arranging “Gift of Heaven” for your community.

The text for “Gift of Heaven” was inspired by the Prayer of the Offering prayed by the priest as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. The first three verses are especially suited liturgically for the Presentation and Preparation of Gifts, and the subsequent verses during Communion, as the simplicity of the refrain is very singable for the congregation. The verses can be sung as a solo, a duet, or choir section, with the choir oo-ing the refrain underneath if desired. Instrumentalists, including a handbell choir, have multiple options for harmonies to embellish the singing.

“Gift of Heaven” was composed for a Dedication Mass to celebrate the opening of a new campus dining hall where students, families, and members of the University of Portland community gather to share meals, stories, and festive events. Whenever we gather as one at the table of the Lord, we share a sacred meal that is truly a gift of heaven and spiritual nourishment for our earthly lives. I am evermore grateful for this gift, and the beauty of liturgy where it is received.

Assembly Edition

GIFT OF HEAVEN

Maureen Briare

Ostinato Refrain



Bread, the gift of heav-en, our life and our sal - va-tion:



When we share this ban-quet we re - mem - ber you.

Verses

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Blessed are you, Lord,
God of our salvation.
Through your goodness we have come
to give you thanks. | 4. Drink of this goodness,
taste the grace eternal.
Holy manna is our bread, our joyful feast. |
| 2. In faith we offer gifts of your creation.
In your love accept this humble sacrifice. | 5. Bread of salvation, now in true communion
broken, blessed and shared
so all may be as one. |
| 3. Bread of our harvest,
Wine the fruit of our hands,
Now become our life, our truth,
our only way. | 6. Food for our hunger,
table of our Shepherd,
lead us to the kingdom,
guide us all our days. |

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