

For anyone seeking the Babe of Bethlehem, the Man of Galilee,
the Crucified of Calvary, the Risen Lord, the Savior of the World.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

Frances Chesterton
alt. R. Staheli

for 2-part choir (Women/Men), with piano accompaniment

tune: Stowey
arr. Ronald Staheli

expressively, with personal involvement (introduction is quite free)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of staves.

System 1: Features the Men's part (bass clef) and Piano accompaniment (grand staff). The Men's part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "How far is it to Beth-le-hem? Will I find Christ". The piano accompaniment starts with a half note chord in the right hand and a half note in the left hand, marked *mp* and *p* respectively.

System 2: Features the Women's part (treble clef) and Men's part (bass clef). The Women's part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "How far is it to Beth-le-hem? I would like to go there." The Men's part has a rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the right hand marked *mp* and *p*, and the left hand marked *mp*. The tempo is marked "moving expressively" with a quarter note equal to 76 (♩ = 76). The word "legato" is written above the piano accompaniment.

System 3: Features the Piano accompaniment (grand staff) starting at measure 12. The right hand is marked *espressivo* and *mp*, and the left hand is marked *mp*.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

19 *rall.* *a tempo* *p*

W

Pno.

How far is it to

26 *p*

W

M

Beth-le-hem? Shall I find the stab-le room Lit by a

Not ve ry far.

Pno.

32 *mp* *p*

W

M

star? Is He with - in?

Can I see the lit - tle child? If I lift the

Pno.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

38 *rall.* *a tempo*

W
May I go in? How far is it to

M
wood - en latch, May I go in?

Pno.

45 *rall.* *a tempo*

W
Beth - le - hem?

M
cresc.
I would like to go there.

Pno.

51 *mf*

M
May I stroke the

Pno.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

4
57

W
M
Pno.

mp
mp

May I watch with them and see Je - sus a -
crea - tures there, Ox - en and sheep? May I watch with them and see Je sus a -

63

W
M
Pno.

p
dim. *p*

sleep?
sleep? If I touch His ti - ny hand, Will He a -

69

W
M
Pno.

p *rall.* *a tempo*
mp
rall. *a tempo*
mp

Will He know I've come so far just for His sake?
wake? How far is it to

75 *mp* *cresc.*

W How far is it to Beth-le-hem?

M Beth-le-hem? *mf* I must go there.

75 *cresc.* *mf* *NB

optional vocal solo: (A - bove the dark street

81 shin-eth the ev-er last - ing light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to

87 *mf*

W Great kings have pre-cious gifts

M *mf* Great kings have pre-cious gifts

87 night.) *cresc.* *mf*

*Play all notes, whether or not the optional vocal solo is sung.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

6
93

W
And I have naught. Joy-ful smiles and joy-ful tears Are all I brought.

M
And I have naught. Joy-ful smiles and joy-ful tears Are all I brought.

Pno.

W
mp
For all need - y child - ren Chris - tians must weep. Here, on Christ's

M
mp
For all need - y child - ren Chris - tians must weep. Here, on Christ's

Pno.

W
105 *p* *rallentando* *a tempo*
bed of straw, Sleep, child - ren, sleep. *mf*

M
105 *p* *rallentando* *a tempo*
bed of straw, Sleep, child - ren, sleep. *mf*

Pno.

optional vocal solo: *rallentando* *a tempo*
(O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee — *mf*)

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

110 *mf* *cresc.*

W
How far is it to Beth-le-hem? I must go

M
far is it to Beth-le-hem? I must go

Pno. *cresc.*

115 *f* *dim.* *mp*

W
there to see Christ in His moth - er's arms, warm by the fire. And

M
there to see Christ in His moth - er's arms, warm by the fire. And

Pno. *f* *dim.* *mp*

120 *f*

W
sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's de - sire. To see

M
sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's de - sire. To see

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

125

W *dim.* *mp*
 Christ in His moth - er's arms, warm by the fire. And sleep, as they

M *dim.* *mp*
 Christ in His moth - er's arms, warm by the fire. And sleep, as they

Pno. *dim.* *mp*

130

W *rall. into slower tempo* *slower*
 sleep who find their heart's de - sire.

M *p*
 sleep, who find their heart's de - sire. How far is it to

Pno. *rall. into slower tempo* *slower* *p*

135 *p* *rallentando* *pp* *slower still*

W
How far is it to Beth - le - hem? Not

M
Beth - le - hem? Not

Pno. *rallentando* *pp* *slower still*

139

W
ve - ry far.

M
ve - ry far.

Pno. *p* *8va* *slow roll*