ANTIPHONS: A COLLECTION OF CHORAL RESPONSES OR SHORT ANTHEMS ARRANGED WITH SCRIPTURE READINGS

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Antiphons: A Collection of Choral Responses Or Short Anthems Arranged with Scripture Readings by H. A. Dickinson & Clarence Dickinson

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H. A. DICKINSON & CLARENCE DICKINSON

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BY

H. A. DICKINSON, Ph.D.

AND

CLARENCE DICKINSON, Mus. D.

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INTRODUCTION

The "Antiphon"—or responsive service—has come to be a regular part of the worship in so many non-liturgical churches that it is in response to numerous requests from ministers, organists, and choirmasters that this Collection is issued.

The "Antiphon" consists of passages of Scripture read by the minister—or the congregation—and responses sung by the choir, all related to one central thought. Passages from the Old and the New Testaments are combined; the Prophecies are joined with the records of their fulfilment in Christ; the needs of the soul are voiced together with the promises of their satisfaction. Settings of sacred poems as well as of Biblical texts, short sections from Oratorios, and spiritual folksongs, are found among the responses.

The "Antiphon" may effectively follow directly upon the reading of the Gospel, so that the minister's sentence, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" serves to introduce it. Immediately, the organist begins to play softly the music of the first response, or a restrained improvisation on its theme; he thus accompanies the reading of the minister as well as the singing of the choir. It is, of course, of the utmost importance to learn what volume of tone and variations of tone color to employ in accompanying the reading, that its beauty and significance may be accentuated, not obscured.

By following attentively, the organist can pass without any break from his improvisation into the accompaniment of the choir upon its entrance. It has been found effective to sing certain responses, and especially the final response, without accompaniment.

Besides beautifying and enriching our worship, the "Antiphon" may be a distinct aid in bringing about greater unity in a service, as the Scripture readings with their responses may be chosen either to suggest or to fit into the central idea of each particular service. It also brings the minister or the congregation and the choir into closer touch as they consciously coöperate in this act of worship.

With but few exceptions the Choral responses in any "Antiphon," joined together, will form an effective anthem. The usefulness of this book is, therefore, not limited to the Antiphonal Service; it has already proved valuable as an Anthem Book. Sections of the "Antiphons" may also be used as separate responses in various parts of the service.

The "Antiphons" are classified, as far as possible, according to their appropriateness to special occasions, or to the seasons of the Church year, such as Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter; but almost all of them are perfectly suitable for use at any service.

A COLLECTION OF ANTIPHONS

CHORAL RESPONSES or SHORT ANTHEMS

Arranged with Scripture Readings

By H. A. DICKINSON, Ph. D., and CLARENCE DICKINSON, M. A., Mux D.

SEPARATE NUMBERS, 1-44, 10 CENTS EACH

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LET THEM PRAISE THY GREAT AND TERRIBLE NAME.

GOD'S INFINITE POWER AND GLORY.

