

12. The Lamentation

Words selected from
the Lamentations of Jeremiah
by Eric Milner-White

Edward C. Bairstow
(1874–1946)
edited by
Lionel Dakers and John Scott

The prophet mourneth for the sins of the people of God.



1. *p* How doth the city sit solitary that was | full of | people:
how is she be-|come | as a | widow.
2. *mf* She that was great among the nations and princess a-|mong the | provin·ces:
how is | she be-|come | tribu·tary.
3. *p* She weepeth sore in the night * and her tears are | on her | cheeks:
among all her lovers | she hath | none to | comfort · her.



4. The ways of Zi-|on do | mourn:
because none come to the | solemn as-|sembly.
5. All her | gates are | deso·late:
and she her-|self is in | bitter·ness.
6. The Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of | her trans-|gressions:
her children are gone into captivity be-|fore · the | ene·my.

Performance notes: Bar-lines in the verses correspond to bar-lines in the music. Asterisks indicate breaks (e.g. v. 3). A dot dividing the syllables of a word or placed between two words indicates how two or more notes are to be divided. A horizontal rule over a word or syllable (e.g. v. 6) indicates that two notes are sung to it.

The dots over the words 'and the' in v. 17 indicate that these words are sung to one note. Verses 11 and 25 carry through the middle of the chant; break only at the asterisk.

VOICES IN UNISON

f

7. All they that go by clap their hands at her:

they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Je - ru - sa - lem saying:

8. 'Is this the city that men called the per - fec-tion of beauty: the joy of the whole earth?'

Man.

Ped.

REFRAIN

Largo espressivo

f

Je - ru - sa - lem, — Je - ru - sa - lem, — re - turn un - to the Lord thy God.

f

Largo espressivo

Christ recalleth us to God by his passion.

9. *p* For these | things I | weep:
mine eye, mine | eye · runneth | down with | water.
10. From on high hath the Lord sent fire into my bones *
and it prevail-|eth a-|gainst them:
he hath made me | deso·late and | faint · all the | day.
11. My flesh and my | skin hath | he made || old: * |
he hath | broken · my | bones.
12. He hath build-|ed a-|gainst me:
and compass'd | me with | gall and | travail.
13. He hath made me to dwell | in dark | places:
as those | that have | been long | dead.

14. I am become a derision to | all my | people:
and their | song all the | day.
15. Let him give his cheek to | him that | smiteth him:
Let him be filled | full with re-|proach.

16. *pp* Is it nothing to you all ye | that pass | by:
behold and see if there be any sorrow | like unto | my sorrow.
17. Remember mine affliction | and my | misery:
the | worm-wood and the | gall.

REFRAIN

Largo *f*

Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem,

Largo *f*

Ped.

re - turn un - to the Lord thy God.

The church repenteth and turneth again.

18. *p* Remember O Lord what is | come up-| on us:
behold and | see our re-|proach.
19. The joy of our | heart is | ceas'd;
our | dance is | turn'd into | mourning.
20. The crown is fallen | from our | head:
woe unto us | for we have | sinn'd.
21. For this our | heart is | faint:
for | these things · our | eyes · are | dim.

22. Let us search and | try our | ways:
and turn again | unto the | Lord.
23. Turn thou us unto thee O Lord and we | shall be | turn'd:
re-|new our | days as of | old.
24. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are | not con-|sum'd:
because his com-|pas-sions | fail not.
25. *mf* They are new | ever-y | morn-||ing: * |
great | is · thy | faithfulness.
26. The Lord is my portion | saith my | soul:
cresc. therefore will I | hope · in | him.
27. O Lord thou hast pleaded the causes | of my | soul:
f thou | hast re-|deem'd · my | life.

REFRAIN

Largo *pp*

Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem,

Largo *pp*

Sw. *pp*

(32) *pp*

re - turn un - to the Lord thy God.