

The Lord Bless and Keep You
TTBB a cappella

CANTUS-003

Peter C. Lutkin; adpt. Chris Foss

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THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU

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Text

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift his countenance upon you;
and give you peace,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you,
be gracious;
the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.

Amen.

From the Composer

My father's side of my family, spread across many states, always found time to gather for holidays and reunions, which usually involved a bit of singing. I remember this piece always being the last to be sung. As I aged and moved farther still, I realized it was quite well known in many circles, including among members of Cantus. This re-voicing keeps the melody in the top voice to be easily heard, yet preserves as much of the voicing of the SATB as possible. I hope it brings special significance for all who come to experience life's many partings. — Chris Foss 2026

Biography

Hailed as "... inventive and compelling" by the Dallas Morning News, Chris Foss has been writing and arranging music for Cantus since he joined in 2008. Chris grew up in southwest Iowa and graduated from Millikin University with a BM in Commercial Music. After a short two years at the University of Nebraska directing the Vocal Jazz program and earning a graduate degree in Choral Conducting, Chris relocated to the Twin Cities and has been proud to be a part of Cantus since then. Chris has also taught voice at McNally Smith College of Music and composition at Concordia University - St. Paul. He spends his fleeting free time attempting to keep his dogs and children from jumping out of the canoe.

CANTUS-003

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

TTBB a cappella

Numbers 6:24-26

Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)
adpt. Chris Foss (b. 1983)

Andante (Smooth and deliberate)

p

Tenor 1

The Lord bless you and keep_ you, the Lord lift His coun-te-nance up - on_ you;

p

Tenor 2

The Lord bless you and keep_ you, the Lord lift His coun-te-nance up - on_ you;

p

Baritone

The Lord bless you and keep_ you, the Lord lift His coun-te-nance up - on_ you;

p

Bass

The Lord bless you and keep_ you, the Lord lift His coun-te-nance up - on_ you; and give you

*Piano
for rehearsal
only

p

*Voice crossings are not shown. The reduction remains suitable for rehearsing high and low voice groupings separately. For individual lines, please read from the vocal staves.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

5

T. 1
and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine up -

T. 2
and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine up -

Bar.
and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine up -

B.
peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine up -

Pno

8

T. 1
- on you, and be gra - - cious un - to you, be gra-cious, the Lord be gra-cious, gra-cious

T. 2
- on you, and be gra-cious, and be gra-cious, the Lord be gra-cious, gra-cious

Bar.
- on you, and be gra-cious, and be gra-cious, the Lord be gra-cious, gra-cious

B.
- on you, and be gra-cious, and be gra-cious, the Lord be gra-cious, gra-cious

Pno

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

13

T. 1
un - to you. *p* A - - men, A - -

T. 2
un - to you. *p* A - - men, A - - men, A - - men, A - -

Bar.
un - to you. *p* A - - men, A - - - men,

B.
un - to you. *p* A - - men, A - - men, A - - men, A - -

Pno
p

18

T. 1
- - - men, A - men, A - - men, A - - men. *pp*

T. 2
- men, A - - - - men, A - men, A - men. *pp*

Bar.
A - men, A - men, A - men, A - - - - men. *pp*

B.
- - - men, men, A - - - - men, A - men. *pp*

Pno
pp

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