AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

How many kinds of insurance does your family have? There's insurance on cars, insurance on homes, insurance on jewelry, insurance on sickness, even insurance on our lives.

William Chatterton Dix was manager of a marine insurance company in Glasgow; but his hymn, "As With Gladness Men of Old," reminds us of the most amazing insurance of all...our guarantee as children of God!

The contract on this unique policy is described in Ephesians 1:3-14. The terms are non-cancellable and the premiums are our willingness to put God's purposes first in our lives. The dividends - an awareness of our Father's Presence and concern — are available at a moment's notice whenever we turn to Him in prayer.

The actual season of the Christian Year in which this hymn is most used is Epiphany, falling on January 6 and celebrated today in remembrance of the Wise Men's visit, the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentile world. Can you recall other major events of the Christian Year and their historical significance? Try to think of the colors, symbols and music that are appropriate to each season. The word Epiphany comes from Latin and Greek words that mean "manifestation." Do you know what this word means? If the Wise Men had not been watching the skies for the star, do you think they would have seen it? If persons today are not seeking for the meaning of Christ in their lives, do you think they will find Him? What rare gifts did the men of old offer Him? Jet travel and mass production make such gifts available today in every town so that "rare gifts for us to offer" are of a different nature: Gifts of our time - Gifts of our talents - Gifts of our tithes. Can you guess what nationality Conrad Kocher was by his name? The German Chorale tune upon which "Dix" is based When did he live? is called "Treuer Heiland" and another frequently sung hymn is used with this tune. Look in your Tune Index to discover what it is: Circle this rhythmic pattern each time it appears in any part: ing the two eighth notes to one quarter note and singing the tune. The results of the experiment should teach you something important about the relationship of movement and monotony - of even and uneven rhythms. Now scan the hymn quickly for intervals. Are you beginning to be able to recognize immediately -- both by sound and by appearance - intervals of a second? a third? a fourth? a fifth? a sixth? an octave? To be good at part singing, hearing and tuning to the interval being sung is important - just as interval recognition helps in sightreading unfamiliar music. Let someone play an A bon the piano as you sing each interval above it. Not let the Ab be the top note, singing the intervals below. Listen to each interval and decide if it is major or minor. By looking closely at the intervals that are sung simultaneously in all parts, we may discover what chord has been used as the basis for the harmonization. Since this tune is in the key of AbMajor, the chord built on the first note of the Ab Major scale will be an Ab Major chord, with Ab, C and Eb. How many of these I Chords The other two main chords used in every do you find in the tune? simple harmonization are chords built on the 4th note of the scale and on the 5th note of the scale. In this tune, the IV chord will be D F A and the V chord will be E G B . One of the main ways of showing harmonization is to write the Roman Numeral, I, V, IV, representing the chord that is used, below the melody line, like this: IV

Even after Epiphany is past, "As With Gladness" will remind me to keep anticipating and responding to God's Constant Presence and Purpose!

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