

Nicholas O'Neill

**This Light Of Reason  
(2016)**

*If thou canst take this light of reason, and light thee a little candle,  
if thou canst find thy Saviour in a manger in his humiliation, and bless God for that beginning,  
if thou canst find him flying into Egypt, and accompany him in a persecution,  
if thou canst follow him into the garden, and gather up some of his precious blood and sweat,  
if thou canst follow him to his scourging, and to his crucifying;  
if thou canst turn this little light inward and discern where thy corruptions are  
thou shalt never envy the lustre and glory of the great lights of worldly men –  
yet shalt thou see that thou by thy light hast gathered pearl and amber,  
that that light shall never go out, nor the works of darkness prevail upon thee.*

Commissioned by a member of the Parliament Choir in memory of Jo Cox MP

# This Light Of Reason

John Donne (1573-1631)

Nicholas O'Neill (b.1970)

Relaxed and calm ♩=c.74

*p simply*

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

*mp*

*pp like an echo*

*p simply*

If thou canst take this light of

6 (♩+♩+♩)

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

*p simply*

rea - son, - and light thee a lit - tle can - dle, - and light thee a lit - tle can - dle, -

and light thee a lit - tle can - dle, light thee a lit - tle can - dle,

11

S. 

A. 

T.   
if thou canst find thy Sa-viour in a man - ger in his hu-mi-li - a - tion, and

B.   
if thou canst find thy Sa-viour in a man - ger in his hu - mi-li - a - tion, and

Pno.   
*mp*

16

S.   
if thou canst find him fly-ing in-to

A.   
if thou canst find him fly-ing in-to

T.   
bless God for that be - gin - ning, if thou canst find him fly-ing in-to

B.   
bless God for that be - gin - ning, if thou canst find him fly-ing in-to

Pno.   
*mf warm*

21

S. *p* E-gypt, and ac - com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

A. *p* E-gypt, and ac - com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

T. *p* E-gypt, and ac - com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

B. *p* E-gypt, and ac - com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

Pno. *p*

26

S. *mf* if thou canst fol - low him in-to the gar-den,

A. if thou canst fol - low him in-to the gar-den,

T. *mf* if thou canst fol - low him in-to the gar-den, and ga-ther

B. *mf* and ga-ther

Pno. *mf*

31 *mf* *f*

S. and ga-ther up some of his pre-cious blood\_\_\_\_\_ and sweat,

A. and ga-ther up and ga-ther up\_ some of his pre-cious blood\_\_\_\_\_ and

T. up some of his pre-cious blood and sweat,

B. up, and ga-ther up\_ some of his pre-cious blood and

Pno. *f*

36 *f* (♩+♩+♩)

S. if thou canst fol - low him to his scour-ging, and to his cru-ci - fy - ing;

A. sweat, if thou canst fol - low him to his scour-ging, and to his cru-ci - fy - ing;

T. if thou canst fol - low him to his scour-ging, and to his cru-ci - fy - ing;

B. sweat, if thou canst fol - low him to his scour-ging, and to his cru-ci - fy - ing;

Pno. *f*

41

S. *p* (♩+♩+♩) if thou canst turn this lit - tle light in - ward and dis

A. *p* if thou canst turn this light in - ward and dis

T. *p* if thou canst turn\_ and dis

B. *p* and dis

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p* (♩+♩+♩)

46

S. *mf* (♩+♩) cern where thy cor - rup - tions are thou shalt ne - ver en - vy the

A. *mf* cern\_ where thy cor - rup - tions are thou shalt ne - ver en - vy the

T. *mf* cern\_ where thy cor - rup - tions are thou shalt ne - ver en - vy the

B. *mf* cern where thy cor - rup - tions are thou shalt ne - ver en - vy the

Pno. *mf* (♩+♩) (♩+♩)

51

S. lus - tre and glo - ry of the great lights of world - ly men -

A. lus - tre and glo - ry of the great lights of world - ly men -

T. lus - tre and glo - ry of the great lights of world - ly men -

B. lus - tre and glo - ry of the great lights of world - ly men -

Pno.

55

S. *p* yet shalt thou see that thou by thy light hast *mf warm and expressive*

A. *p* yet shalt thou see that thou by thy *mf warm and expressive*

T. *p* yet shalt thou see that thou by thy *mf warm and expressive*

B. *p* yet shalt thou see that thou by thy *mf warm and expressive*

Pno.



61

S. *f* ga thered pearl, and am - ber, hast ga - thered pearl and am - ber, that that light shall

A. *f* light hast ga - thered pearl and am - ber that that light shall

T. *f* light hast ga - thered pearl and am - ber that that light shall

B. *f* light hast ga - thered pearl and am - ber that that light shall

Pno. *f*

67

S. ne - ver go out, nor the works of dark - ness pre - vail u - pon thee.

A. ne - ver go out nor the works of dark - ness pre - vail u - pon thee.

T. ne - ver go out nor the works of dark - ness pre - vail u - pon thee.

B. ne - ver go out nor the works of dark - ness pre - vail u - pon thee.

Pno.

73 **Slowing to the end**

*p simply*

S. If thou canst take \_\_\_\_\_ this light of rea - son-

*p simply*

A. If thou canst take \_\_\_\_\_ this light of rea - son-

*p simply*

T. If thou canst take \_\_\_\_\_ this light of rea - son-

*p simply*

B. If thou canst take \_\_\_\_\_ this light of rea - son-

**Slowing to the end**

Pno.