

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

SOPRANO *p simply*  
If thou canst take this light of

Organ *mp* *Solo* *p simply*  
*pp like an echo*

Pedals

6 (♩+♩+♩)

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

A. *p simply*  
and light thee a lit-tle can - dle, light thee a lit-tle can - dle,

T. *mp*  
if thou canst

B. *mp*  
if

Org. *mp*

Ped. 8' only

12

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Org. 

Ped. 

17

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Org. 

Ped. 

22

S. *mf*  
com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

A. *mf*  
com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

T. *mf*  
com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

B. *mf*  
com-pa-ny him in a per-se - cu - tion,

Org. *mf*

Ped. *mf*

27

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

A. *mf*  
and ga-ther up

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

B. *mf*  
and ga-ther up,

Org. *mf*

Ped. *mf*

32 *f*

S. some of hispre-cious blood\_\_\_\_\_ and sweat, if thou canst

A. and ga-ther up\_ some of hispre-cious blood\_\_\_\_\_ and sweat, if thou canst

T. some of his pre-cious blood and\_ sweat, if thou canst

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

Org. *f*

Ped.

37 (♩+♩+♩)

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

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

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

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

Org. *f* (♩+♩+♩)

Ped.

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 -

Org. *mf* *mp* *p* (♩+♩+♩)

Ped.

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

Org. *mf* (♩+♩) (♩+♩)

Ped.

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 -

Org.

Ped.

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*

Org.

Ped.



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

Org. *f*

Ped. *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.

Org. *f* *mf*

Ped.

73 **Slowing to the end**

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

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

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

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

Org. *mp*  
**Slowing to the end**

Ped.