



## PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2310 East Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55812 • Telephone 218-724-8503

Ministers: John H. Kemp and Emmajane S. Finney

March 28, 1988

The Rev. Michael Stolton  
2210 Lea Road  
Bath, United Kingdom BA 13RA

Dear Michael:

Hope everything is going well for you these days. Your Pilgrim Church friends have continued to ask after you in recent weeks.

I thought it best to write a covering letter regarding the enclosed enquiry from our Music Director.

We are about to celebrate the completion of a great new organ at Pilgrim Church. Thanks to the generosity of the Richard Nelsons (a past interim minister of this church), we are having several kinds of sacred music commissioned to be introduced on our new organ over the next year.

The Music Committee and the Nelsons agreed you would be a good choice to invite to write a hymn or carol that would be sung by congregation and/or choir during the Advent-Christmas season. Our church has appreciated your earlier gifts of hymns on the occasion of our parish exchanges.

We thought it appropriate to draw upon the rich English Carol tradition for such music if you were comfortable with that. If you have any other thoughts on carols or hymns you might propose, let us know.

Because such a commissioning is at our invitation, naturally we would expect to pay an equitable fee to you for your work.

I hope you'll be interested in this proposal!

With warm personal greetings.

Sincerely,

John H. Kemp

Home: 011 44 225 23286  
Church: 310050

OUR TIME  
Rates sup 7AM-1PM  
1PM-6PM  
cheap 6PM-7PM



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The Rev. Michael Stolton  
2210 Lea Road  
Bath, United Kingdom BA 13RA

Dear Mr. Stolton:

Pilgrim Congregational Church is currently having a new pipe organ constructed which will be completed in late spring of this year. The Reverend Richard Nelson and his wife Dorthy have given the church money to commission various composers to write new works that will be used next year in celebration of the completion of our new organ. Mr. Nelson recommended that you be asked to write an Advent Carol in the English tradition to sing with organ. This would be premiered during the Advent season of 1988.

Would you please let me know if you could accept such a commission, and if so, what your fee would be? Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Bumgardner  
Music Director



**CENTRAL  
UNITED REFORMED  
CHURCH  
BATH**

Tel. 310050

(incorporating Argyle U.R.C. and Trinity U.R.C.)

**Minister:**

Rev. MICHAEL B. STOLTON, B.D.  
22 Penn Lea Road, Bath BA1 3RA

Tel. 23286

**Secretary:**

J. D. EDE, 12 Springfield Place, Bath BA1 5RA

Tel. 22362

**Treasurer:**

E. V. ATKINS, 12A St. Catherine's Close, Bath BA2 6BS

Tel. 66758

April 13th 1988

Dear John;

Thank you so much for your letter, enclosing the request from Mr. Bumgardner about the Advent Carol. I should be delighted to accept your invitation, and would ask that you forward the enclosed letter to him for me.

I'm grateful for your - and your congregation's concern for me, at the present time. Things aren't too bad, though the loneliness follows me about like a shadow. Judith and I had thirty years of married life - a delight in every way - and the parting has seemed a very traumatic business. I know she is still with me in a real way, but nevertheless there's a 'credibility gap' which as yet I can't cross: I know what's happened is 'real', but in many other senses it seems 'unreal'. I think I'm at the stage

of saying, 'Lord I believe: help Thou mine unbelief'. The strange thing was that, over Easter, I passionately believed in what I was preaching and saying and doing - but when I was left by myself after it had all happened, there was a gnawing doubt eating away at my soul. However, I suppose in the end, that creative faith has to be forged out of the darkness of doubt - if we 'believed' without ever having doubts, it would all be a very stagnant and unrealistic adventure.

Sorry, I didn't mean to preach a sermon! Bless you for your care and concern - and I'll do my best to produce an Advent Carol worthy of all your hoped-for celebrations when your new organ is completed.

With greetings and best wishes,  
Sincerely yours,

Michael



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April 13th 1988

Thomas A Bumgardner,  
Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
2310 East Fourth Street,  
DULUTH, Minnesota 55812

Dear Mr. Bumgardner,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 28th,  
forwarded to me under cover of a letter from John Kemp.  
I am sorry not to have replied earlier, but I have been away  
for a week and only just returned home.

I feel privileged to have been asked to write an  
Advent Carol for the forth-coming Advent season, and would  
be delighted to see what could be done. I assume it is  
for congregational singing, rather than a choir Anthem -  
and that both words and music would be appropriate.

There are just two comments - one is that it would  
be helpful to know by what date you need the composition;  
and secondly I would be very hesitant about asking for a  
'fee', since it would be a great pleasure to do it for  
you. Should you feel it appropriate to find a suitable  
way of saying thank you, a small contribution toward  
a compact disc would be very acceptable - that's assuming,  
of course, that I would find time to listen to whatever I  
purchased!

I look forward to hearing from you about the  
date, and in between times, I'll see what transpires when  
I put hand to keyboard and paper to type-writer.

With greetings and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Michael B. Stollon*



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Ministers: John H. Kemp and Emmajane S. Finney

April 28, 1988

Dear Michael:

I'm pleased you are willing to do the hymn for us!  
Enclosed is a letter of confirmation from our Director  
of Music, Thomas (Art) Bumgardner.

The only thing I would suggest as you set about  
this project is that you be as sensitive as possible  
to "inclusive language" in your text. This has become  
an area of sensitivity in many American churches,  
particularly of our tradition. For many (though  
certainly not all!), the use of "mankind" and gendering  
God-language has become jarring. At Pilgrim we have  
a spectrum of responses to the subject, but in worship  
we try to honor inclusive language in liturgy as  
much as possible. Gender-language in the Scriptures  
is another (and more explosive!) issue in the church  
over here. Anyway, do as you feel best, keeping  
to your own sense of artistic and theological integrity.

On a different subject, I received your note on  
Sadie's death and will share excerpts with the congregation.  
She was indeed a unique "pilgrim" in faith. We'll  
all miss her.

With best wishes.

Warm personal greetings!





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Ministers: John H. Kemp and Emmajane S. Finney

April 28, 1988

The Rev. Michael Stolton  
2210 Lea Road  
Bath, United Kingdom, BA 13RA

Dear Rev. Stolton,

I am delighted to hear that you are willing to write an Advent Carol for the congregation at Pilgrim Church. If you could deliver the manuscript by September 1, 1988, that will give us time to make copies for the choir and congregation and prepare it for the Advent Season. We would like to offer you a fee of \$200.00 American for your work. Thank you so much for agreeing to do this. I shall look forward to receiving the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

*Thomas A. Bumgardner*

Thomas A. Bumgardner

Director of Music

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Tel. 66758

18th August 1988

The Revd. John H. Kemp,  
Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
DULUTH

Dear Jack,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have just sent to Art Bumgardner together with the words and music of the three carols which I have prepared as a result of your recent invitation to do something for Advent. I think my letter to him says all that is needful.

It has been a great joy to do this for you, and I only hope my efforts are reasonable - even if only one of the three is deemed worthy, it would have been an exercise interesting enough to tackle.

In the meantime my own period of 'rehabilitation' following Judith's death in February is going along fairly well. Naturally some days feel absolutely awful and the loneliness and ache seem intolerable - but at other times I find a contentment within which brings encouragement and hope for tomorrow. That I now have 'motivation' for new things - writing music, poetry etc. is perhaps an indication that the jig-saw of life is slowly coming together again. I suppose the fact that we knew what was going to happen during the last nine months of Judith's time with us, meant that the 'grieving period' had begun some time ago. Our children tell me that when Judith actually died they felt less numb, simply because they had gone through the grieving period when first knowing her condition was terminal.

The church fellowship at Central have been wonderfully supportive all this time, and I have been abundantly blessed by some much kindness and upheld by a great deal of prayer and care.

There are strong rumours going about that quite a number of our folk are interested in coming to Duluth next year - but this isn't official yet - so maybe we'll have a chat about that in a letter later in the year - that is, of course, if you're willing to cope with us again and the exchange rate doesn't completely veer out of orbit in the meantime!

For the time being, please convey our greetings to your congregation and the assurance of our continuing prayers for your own ministry in Duluth.

With affectionate greetings,  
Sincerely yours,

*Michael*



18th August 1988

Thomas A. Bumgardner Esq.,  
Director of Music,  
Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
DULUTH

Dear Art,

I am enclosing the words and music of three carols, as a result of your invitation to prepare something for Advent. It's quite possible, of course, that they are not really what you are looking for, but I can only be true to my own limited ability. Perhaps a few words about each might be helpful.

The first carol: 'Cradle warmly in your arm' to the tune 'Immanuel', I think needs a slight lilt in its playing and singing, so that it isn't too 'stiff'. You will notice that lines 5 and 6 of each verse have a different 'feel' and inject a sense of rejoicing in to what is otherwise a more 'gentle' tune. I've tried throughout all three carols to be sensitive to 'inclusive language' - so I apologise that in verse 3 the word 'mankind' appears. If you wish to replace it with 'the world', I don't mind.

The second carol: 'Sing Lullaby' to the tune 'Nelson' is much more of a lullaby - maybe for choir singing? It's a little high in the key written, but I've tried it in a lower key, but it then loses its feeling - and I would be sorry if that were done. I thought it might be nice to call the tune 'Nelson' since Richard Nelson is partly responsible for sponsoring this exercise!

The third carol: 'On this Christmas morning' to the tune 'Advent' is rather unspectacular, but I think it could sound well given a fairly bold approach.

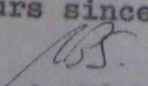
None of the three are what I might call 'modern' in the sense of containing difficult harmonies or 'twelve note' idioms - I tend to write tunes which are easy to learn and sing, and hope these three might be acceptable. Please copy them (both words and music) to whatever extent you need - though if they are circulated beyond Duluth, perhaps someone might drop me a line first, so that I know where they are!

Thank you for giving me the stimulus to write a carol for you - though I've sent three rather than one, your more than generous offer of a fee of 200 American dollars is already an embarrassment to me for what has been a joy to attempt.

Out of courtesy I have sent copies to Jack Kemp, who may or may not receive them before you do.

With greetings and best wishes - and good singing!

Yours sincerely,

  
(Revd. Michael Stolton)

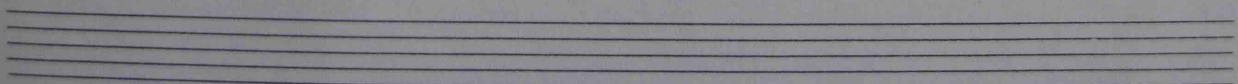
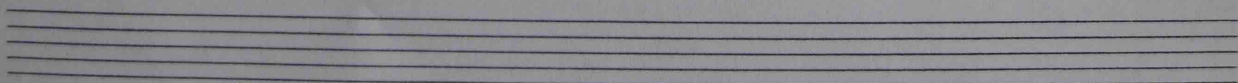
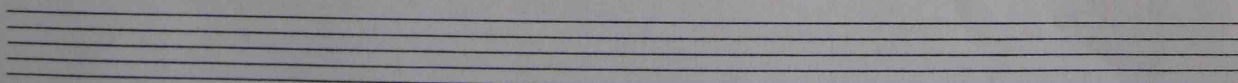
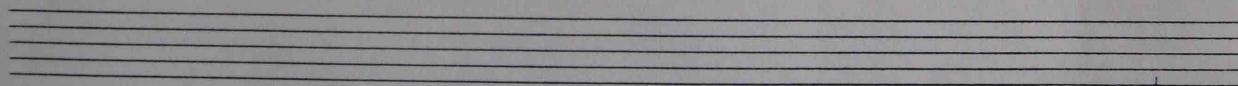
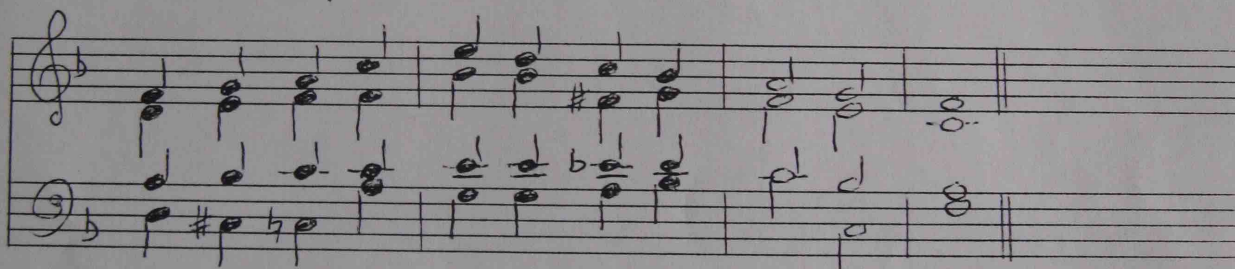
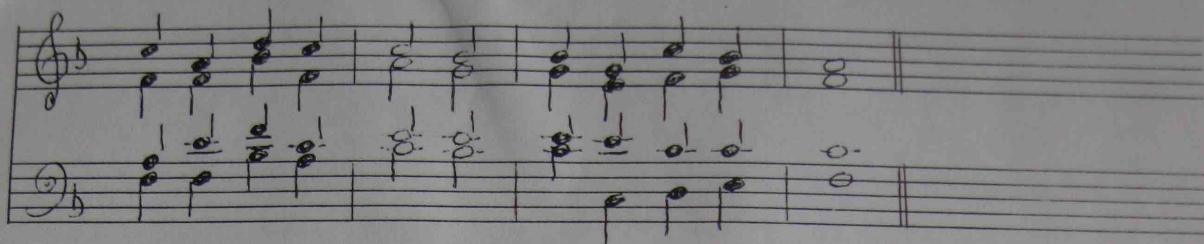
1. On this Christmas morning, glorious praises sing,  
Christ has come to save us, let your church bells ring;  
All the world rejoices on this advent day,  
Come and bring your treasures, at His feet to lay.
2. Cradled in a manger, for the world to see,  
Word made flesh among us, born a refugee;  
Son of the eternal, fruit of human womb,  
Soon this King will greet us from the empty tomb.
3. Shepherds on your hillside, haste to Bethlehem,  
Let your humble service be your offering's gem;  
Tell the world your story, ponder what you see,  
For this Child before you is now born for me.
4. Eastern kings come quickly, to the manger bare,  
Offer Him your riches, as you worship there;  
Let the star that led you to this holy shrine,  
Be my sign in heaven; may this Child be mine.
5. Angels and archangels, clothed in raiment bright;  
Let the heavenly kingdom glow with Christ's own light;  
From the throne of glory, God stooped down to earth  
To become my Saviour through a human birth.

Michael Stolton.



ADVENT (11.11.11.11)

Michael Stollon.



1. Cradle warmly in your arm,  
Mary, rock your new born Son;  
Safely shelter him from harm  
In your mother's tender care.  
Let the poor and lowly sing,  
Christ is born this happy morn -  
Dwell for ever in my heart,  
To the world your grace impart.
2. Shepherds now your lambs enfold,  
In the stillness of the night;  
Leave your hillside, bare and cold,  
Circled round with heavenly light;  
Angel choirs their chorus rings,  
Christ is born this happy morn -  
Lamb of God I Thee adore,  
Let me love you more and more.
3. Eastern kings your treasures bring,  
To a manger, rude and bare;  
Let your homage swiftly wing  
To the Saviour of mankind.  
Let the stars and planets cry,  
Christ is born this happy morn -  
King of kings, my gifts I give  
In your service, while I live.
4. Worship Him with heart and voice,  
Angels, shepherds, eastern kings;  
Now let all the world rejoice -  
Alleluia, praise be done.  
Sound your trumpets, ring your bells,  
Christ is born this happy morn -  
Wake my soul, and tell abroad,  
Mary's child is Jesus - Lord!

Michael Stolton.



MANUEL (77. 77. 77. 77)

Michael Stoltz.

Handwritten musical score for 'MANUEL' by Michael Stoltz. The score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The music is written in a simple, handwritten style with various notes, rests, and accidentals. The first system has a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass staff. The second system has a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass staff. The third system has a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass staff. The fourth system has a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass staff. The music is written in a simple, handwritten style with various notes, rests, and accidentals.

Four empty musical staves for notation.

1. Sing lullaby,  
Sing lullaby,  
For God's own Son  
Flesh has become;  
From raiment bright,  
Love, life and light  
Are Christ's own gifts to me.
2. Sing lullaby,  
Sing lullaby,  
Jesus, my Lord,  
God's blessed Word,  
Dwells upon earth  
Through human birth,  
Fullness of grace and truth.
3. Sing lullaby,  
Sing lullaby,  
Angel choirs sing,  
Trumpet sounds ring;  
Welcome this child,  
Gentle and mild,  
Born now is Christ the King!

Michael Stolton.



NELSON

Michael Stolten.

